Building donated to DPS remains unrenovated, is vandalized. PAGE 2
Ex-convict allegedly points machete at ex-girlfriend. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Video shows cop hitting suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Law enforcers arrested after a car chase on Saipan Friday night a man when his vehicle flipped over on the grassy side of a road.

» DPS, OAG investigating incident after car chase

A bystander took a video of the incident, where a police officer is seen repeatedly hitting a person on the ground beside the overturned car. The officer appears to be holding a baton. Some officers were also seen rushing to the scene.

The video went viral on social media and was posted or emailed several times.

A man's voice could be heard on the vid-

See VIDEO on Page 4

ANTI-DRUNK DRIVING
Police officers, along with community volunteers, perform a Christmas carol at the Commonwealth Superior Court in Susupe on Dec. 9. The activity is actually intended to raise awareness about drunk driving.
MICHAEL T. SANTOS

See story on Page 2

Van Gils looks forward to be CNMI's face

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gerard Van Gils, the State Teacher of the Year for 2017, looks forward to representing the CNMI in Washington, D.C., along with other teachers of the year winners from across the country.

Van Gils of Kagman High School said that he, along with the other state teachers of the year, would be in conferences representing their respective states.

"I'll be doing a number of conferences and a number of trips to represent our islands, at least six trips in 2017. I am looking forward to representing our teachers, our students,

See VAN GILS on Page 4

Senate to soon formalize leadership

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The nine members of the CNMI Senate would soon hold a caucus to formalize the leadership of the 20th Legislature. Inauguration day, Jan. 9, 2017, is also the Senate's first session day. There are seven GOP members in the Senate while two ran as independents in the last two elections.

Senate President Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) said they would hold the caucus after Christmas, less than three weeks before inauguration day. He added that there's already a "gentleman's agreement" among the members.

Up for grab are the positions for Senate president, vice president, and floor leader. It will be Saipan's turn for the Senate presidency while a senator from Rota would become the vice president, and Tinian the floor leader.

There are reports that Sen. Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) would be the next Senate president. If that is the case, Palacios, a former speaker of the House of Representatives' 16th Legislature, will become the first elected official in the CNMI to head both chambers.

The Senate president, once the leadership had been settled, would appoint chairmen and members to the eight committees: Rules and Procedure; Public Utilities, Transportation and

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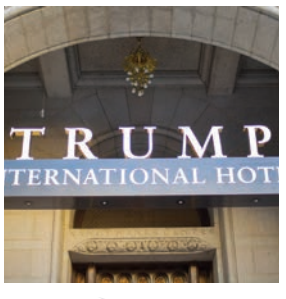
INSIDE



BUSINESS
Donald Trump shuts down some of his companies in the days after the election.
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NATION
The body of John Glenn will lie in state in Ohio's capitol building.
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WORLD
Hundreds of people in Solomon Islands have had their homes damaged or destroyed.
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Local

DPS annual caroling spreads safety driving awareness

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety spread cheer while promoting a safe holiday season with a caroling performance by police officers at the CNMI Superior Court last Friday.

Every December, policemen go around the island on behalf of DPS to talk about safe driving, the dangers of drinking and driving, as well as its designated driver program during their performance of Christmas songs.

"We love singing for the public during this time of the year, but what we want more is to exercise safety among community members. The Department of Public Safety has a program that caters to those who are too intoxicated to drive," said police Lt. Joe Saures. "The program helps bring people from the bar they are currently at to their home. All you have to do is call and we are more than happy to take care of anyone in the community, as long as the person doesn't want us to drop him or her at another bar."

Eunice Angeles, a participant, said, "It was so much fun hanging out with the policemen and practicing with them. Learning the songs was actually a little difficult because we had to learn how to pronounce words properly. …I'm very thankful for them [officers] and their patience for not only teaching everyone the tone of the music, but also the pronunciation of words."

"I think this event is important for the community because it opens their eyes to the current problems we have such as drinking and driving. These are issues that need to be discussed and I feel like it is taboo so it's good that these policemen are doing something to spread awareness. The public will know that there are ways to have fun while being responsible for themselves and everyone around them."

DPS has been conducting the program for about five years now, according to Saures. It will available for anyone in the community who needs a ride home but is too intoxicated to drive. The telephone number for the designated driver program is 483-RIDE.

HOSTING A GRAMMY NOMINATED ARTIST IPI -CSR

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. chief services officer Tao Xing, in blue striped shirt, and Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz join Grammy-nominated artist J Boog and popular Hawaiian artists Anuhea, Mike Love, The Jimmy Weeks Project, Siaosi, and Bigbodycisco at the Best Sunshine Live Bar Thursday evening following a dinner hosted by IPI for the famed American reggae and R&B vocalist and the group at BSI's Noodle Bar.

3 YEARS AFTER DPL TURNED OVER ABANDONED BUILDING TO DPS

Building remains unrenovated, is vandalized

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The abandoned building in Susupe that the Department of Public Lands turned over to the Department of Public Safety in 2013 for its community policing program remains unrenovated. The facility has also been vandalized several times.

An abandoned building in Susupe that the Department of Public Lands turned over to the Department of Public Safety in December 2013 for a new police substation remains unrenovated and has attracted the attention of vandals, with the building's walls spray-painted several times.

The building is located next to a basketball court near the Mobil gas station in Susupe. It used to house the Head Start Center and a community hall. *Saipan Tribune* saw words written in red paint along with other drawings outside the building.

When asked about DPS' plan for the building and why it's not been improved or fixed, DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said he cannot answer that.

"There is no money for that," Guerrero said.

The commissioner said he is also aware that the building is being vandalized.

Guerrero believes that House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) and a Precinct 2 representative are having the building renovated.

Then-DPL secretary Pete Tenorio turned over the abandoned building to then-DPS commissioner James Deleon Guerrero in December 2013 for DPS' Community Oriented Policing Section Center.

Until the renovation work is done, DPS will be assigning some officers at the Manhoben Center in Chalan Kanoa District 2 to the area.

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero said they want to get the community policing program rolling.

Guerrero said they are working closely with either the Ayuda Network or the *manhoben* and partnered with Youth Affairs to utilize a portion of the *manhoben* facility in Chalan Kanoa as a temporary substation.

Guerrero said this has been done because it takes time for that building in Susupe to get in line.

"We cannot keep delaying the project as far as putting officers in villages," he said.

Guerrero said they already opened the Kagman substation and that they are beefing up the koban station in Garapan.

The commissioner disclosed that they are also planning to put up one substation in San Roque.

He said once the Koblerville fire substation is renovated and complete, he will request Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio Norita to allow police officers there as well.

"We're kind of putting officers on all four corners of the island," Guerrero said.

'Lee Pan' eyes Zoning budget adjustment

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) plans to bring up the budget concerns of the Commonwealth Zoning Office to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Guerrero brought up the subject during the public hearing held by the Zoning Office last Dec. 1, when a few of the attendees asked why the hearing was held at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School since the proposed building site was in Koblerville.

"It's something new to me and I'm glad that the chairman of the Zoning board mentioned that concern about funding for conducting a public hearing. This is uncalled for, that we cannot even appropriately fund them so that they can conduct a public hearing in the different parts of the island," said Guerrero.

"It's important that where these projects are going to be built should be [heard] at their respective village, not to conduct a hearing here in the north that relates to a project down at the south. With that, I will definitely reach out to the [delegation] for these types of public hearings in the future," he added.

Frank Tomokane, a resident of Koblerville, was one of the few who questioned the venue of the hearing.

"Why is [the public hearing] all the way in San Roque when the project is a major development in Koblerville? It doesn't make sense to me," said Tomokane, directing his question to the Zoning board.

Tomokane said during the public comments section that his neighbor was planning to attend the public hearing but was unable to do so due to the distance of the venue.

"I'm just kind of curious as to why the public hearing wasn't held in Koblerville Elementary School or Saipan Southern High School," he added.

Zoning board chair Diego Blanco then explained why the public hearing was held at San Roque.

"It was actually requested by Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan)," said Blanco, who added that it was also requested by the people of San Roque. "And because of that, we decided to spend our money to come here."

"We understand your concern," said Blanco to Tomokane.

Ex-convict allegedly points machete at ex-girlfriend

An ex-convict was arrested last week in Chalan Kanoa for allegedly pointing a machete at the face of his former girlfriend and stealing several items from her.

Brian Lee Reyes, 43, was served with an arrest warrant last Wednesday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, theft, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set Friday at $10,000 cash; preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 19 at 9am. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit represents Reyes.

Police said the victim called the Department of Public Safety last Oct. 3 to report a theft incident involving a former boyfriend, Reyes.

Preliminary investigation showed that the victim was supposed to drop Reyes at her friend's mother's house in Chalan Kanoa for a bush cutting job when Reyes got mad and screamed at her.

On their way to the Chalan Kanoa residence, Reyes allegedly demanded money, but when she told him she had none, he tried to grab her purse as she was driving. She managed to pull the purse away from Reyes. He then pointed a machete at her face and threatened to kill her.

The victim honked the horn and screamed for help. Reyes grabbed her phone, exited the car, and ran to the back of his brother's house.

Last March 27, 2016, the victim also sought police's help, saying Reyes took items from her, including a drill and charger, a purse worth $160, two silver bracelets worth $200, and three watches worth a total of $450. She said Reyes admitted taking the items and that he never returned them.

Reyes is on probation after pleading guilty to disturbing the peace on Aug. 21, 2013. The case stemmed from a domestic disturbance involving another victim. In that case, he is on five years of probation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man gets 2-year prison term for 'ice' possession

A man who pleaded guilty to possessing a controlled substance was sentenced to two years in prison.

At a change of plea hearing last week, 44-year-old Rui Jun Huang was sentenced to two years imprisonment, with credit for five days of time served. Huang goes to prison today, Monday, at 8am.

Huang was fined $2,000. He will be deported from the CNMI once he completes his sentence.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Huang.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Huang with trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. He pleaded guilty to possession. The remaining charge was dropped.

According to the plea deal, on April 2, 2015, on Saipan, Huang had in his possession methamphetamine hydrochloride.

Huang and another suspected "ice" distributor were taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in May 2015. Camacho released the two on a $100,000 and $10,000 unsecured bond, respectively, after the Department of Public Safety failed to bring them to court within 24 hours after their arrest. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Old school, still cool

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, second from left, along with IT&E chief executive officer John Compton, left, chief financial officer Susan Ligeralde, third from left, Yellow Pages Inc. business sales manager Jayr Dominguez, press secretary Ivan A. Blanco, and public information specialist L.J. Castro present the new CNMI Phone Book last Friday.

IT&E has already released the CNMI's 2017 Phone Book after it was introduced to acting governor Victor B. Hocog last Friday at the conference room of the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill. The phone book is published every year.

IT&E chief executive officer John Compton, chief financial officer Susan Ligeralde, and Yellow Pages Inc. business sales manager Jayr Dominguez presented the new phone book to Hocog, press secretary and representative-elect Ivan A. Blanco, and public information specialist and councilor-elect L.J. Castro.

Publishing and having a phone book in your home or office is still important even in this digital age, Compton said, as it remains a handy tool. "Having a phone book, it is still important even in this year and age. Because people won't always know how to reach other people."

"This year is particularly important since there are a lot of new businesses in the CNMI that had signed up for advertisements and so now people will know how to find them," added Compton.

He said the phone book remains extremely popular in the CNMI. "People always look forward to getting this every year. And if they don't get it on time, we get complaints about it. That's why we went ahead of the curve this year."

IT&E also lessened this year the number of copies they publish from 40,000 to 30,000, while also introducing a digital copy. "In addition to this paper copy, we have a digital copy online and you could download either on Apple Store or Google Play," said Compton.

A total of 30,000 phone books were published this year. "Over time some people prefer the digital edition. We don't want to kill more trees."

Dominguez oversees the advertisements and phone numbers that would be printed on the phone book every year. He starts in February, looking for businesses that want to place an ad, then collects the updated numbers of subscribers around July.

Photos by Mark S. Burke are featured in the new phone book, with his shot of a replica of the traditional meeting place of ancient Chamorros as part of the Kalabera Cave Development Project on the cover.

3-day diabetes training held at PIC

By MICAHEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Participants discuss assignments given to them during the Pacific Diabetes Self-Management Education Program Training held at the Pacific Islands Club on Dec 1.

Stakeholders from different agencies and sections in the CNMI community were taught the basics of diabetes self-management and how to cascade these methods to the rest of the CNMI.

The three-day diabetes training program was held at the Pacific Islands Club from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

The Pacific Diabetes Self-Management Education Program Training focused on how to implement a diabetes self-management education curriculum derivative from one made in Hawaii. It is the only culturally tailored diabetes self-management curriculum available for Pacific islanders.

Washington State University assistant professor and DSME instructor Ka'imi A. Sinclair conducted the training.

"I was really pleased to come out here and provide this training to people. Diabetes is a big problem all over the world and especially out in the Pacific. So there is definitely a need for something like this," said Sinclair.

"Being remote as you are here [on Saipan], it really is difficult to get the same kind of healthcare you can get in the mainland. So it's important to prevent a lot of the complications with diabetes. Several people have even shared how they had to receive amputations due to their condition. It's important to train people on how to handle their diabetes so they can live a long and fulfilling life," Sinclair said.

Training participants learned about variable aspects in dealing with people that have diabetes in the Pacific.

Becky Robles, Non-Communicable Disease Bureau administrator, said, "What they provide here aren't just reading materials. It's very hands on and helps us figure out how to implement these practices in our respective programs."

"I think we all know someone who has diabetes, and information can help avoid or treat it. The more knowledge and education we have, the better. The three-day program is a great way to disseminate information to people who wish to address the issue of diabetes in our community," Robles said.

VAN GILS

From Page 1

and representing our islands as well as we can," he said.

Although no tentative date was provided as to when Van Gils would be going to the United States, part of his itinerary would be a meeting with President-elect Donald Trump and he believes the conferences would be hosted within the second quarter of 2017.

"President-elect Trump hasn't taken office yet and we don't know when he's going to want to host the Teacher of the Year for all areas, but it is probably going to be in April or early May 2017," he said.

Van Gils hopes to possibly inspire other teachers to teach in the CNMI.

"Hopefully we can get people to come out here and want to teach or hopefully get people to come out here and have a nice vacation in the tropics," said Van Gils.

Van Gils was named CNMI State Teacher of the Year 2017 last Nov. 23.

Van Gils, with KHS principal Leila Staffler, initiated a college preparation program called "Million Dollar Scholars," which aims to raise money to provide higher education to students from the CNMI.

SENATE

From Page 1

Communication; Judiciary, Government, and Law; Health and Welfare; Fiscal Affairs; Federal Relations and Independent Agencies; Executive Appointments and Government Investigations; and Education and Youth Affairs.

The House already settled their leadership roles last week, with House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) retaining his post with the support of the super majority. Representative-elect Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) is the presumptive vice speaker, while Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) as the probable floor leader.

Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the minority leader and he will be joined by Saipan's other independent Reps. Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, and Vinson E. Sablan.

The only thing that's left to be settled at the House is the heads of the nine committees: Federal and Foreign Affairs; Education; Commerce and Tourism; Rules Ad Hoc; PUTC; Natural Resources; Judiciary and Government Operations; Health and Welfare; and Ways and Means.

The House leadership is expected to split some of the committees while creating special ones so the remaining 14 members of the GOP super majority would be part of a particular committee, either as the head or a member.

All new and returning members of the House, either Republican or independent, will be given a chance to act as chairman or do their share as a member.

VIDEO

From Page 1

eo, saying that the person being beaten up is possibly Moses Martin, a person wanted by police.

A source, however, disclosed that the person being punched on the video is not Martin but an ex-convict who is allegedly notorious for burglary and stealing cars on Saipan.

When asked about the incident on Saturday, Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said it is currently being investigated by the Internal Affairs Office of the Department of Public Safety in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General's Investigative Division.

Tarkong did not provide more details about the car chase. It's not clear where the car overturned but many people saw the car chase in Garapan.

In Martin's case, Tarkong issued a Crime Stoppers Crime of the Week notice on Thursday.

Tarkong said that on Monday, Dec. 5, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an arrest warrant against the 31-year-old Martin for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Camacho imposed a $50,000 cash bail in the warrant.

Tarkong said law enforcers are searching for Martin, a Palauan national, and that he is still at large.

"If spotted, do not approach. Call 911 or Crime Stoppers should you wish to remain anonymous," Tarkong said in the press release.

As of yesterday, there was no information if Martin has already been arrested.

Matua Riders visit the *man'amko*

Members of the Matua Riders surprised the *man'amko* again with even more care packages in celebration of the group's annual Christmas Spirit Run last Friday.

Matua members visited the Office on Aging early Friday morning to deliver care packages filled with fruits and assorted necessities and spent some time with the island's elderly.

Man'amko Council president Rita Indalecio Reyes thanked the motorcycle group for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

"We're very happy the Matua Riders came again to visit. They've been doing it so long, almost every year, and they never miss coming over and making everyone happy. It's not just the money or the items they bring, but also the thought and the time to personally hand it over that makes us so appreciative."

Maria Taitano Salinas said. "We just love them. I look forward to them coming every year and they seem happy to visit. I'm just speechless because they're so good to us. I know they fundraise for these things and I hope they continue to have good luck with that. All of them are so much fun to be with and it's great that we all got a personal gift from them."

Aside from the *man'amko*, children in pediatric care and those living in less fortunate housing will also be receiving packages for the holidays.

The Matua Riders are mostly a motorcycle-riding association.

A Matua Rider, Pete Deleon Guerrero, said, "This is what we've been doing since the Matua Riders was first established in 2010. We don't just ride around. We spend time with the community. After all, Saipan's our island."

The organization's goal for the year is for the Matua Riders to distribute about 200 care packages, 50 more than last year's. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Matua Riders. along with the *man'amko.* pose for a group photo after the distribution of care packages during the Matua Riders' annual Christmas Spirit Run in the Office on Aging on Dec. 9.
MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Zoning OK's NMIFA soccer pitch

The Commonwealth Zoning Board last Dec. 1 approved the conditional use application of an association's plans to build a soccer pitch in Koblerville.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association plans to construct a $1.5-million soccer pitch complete with roofed bleachers, lockers, toilets and showers, meeting rooms, and a storage area adjacent to the idle land next to the Koblerville Fire Station.

The soccer pitch would be the first not situated within a school campus in the CNMI.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta serves as the contact person for the Zoning board.

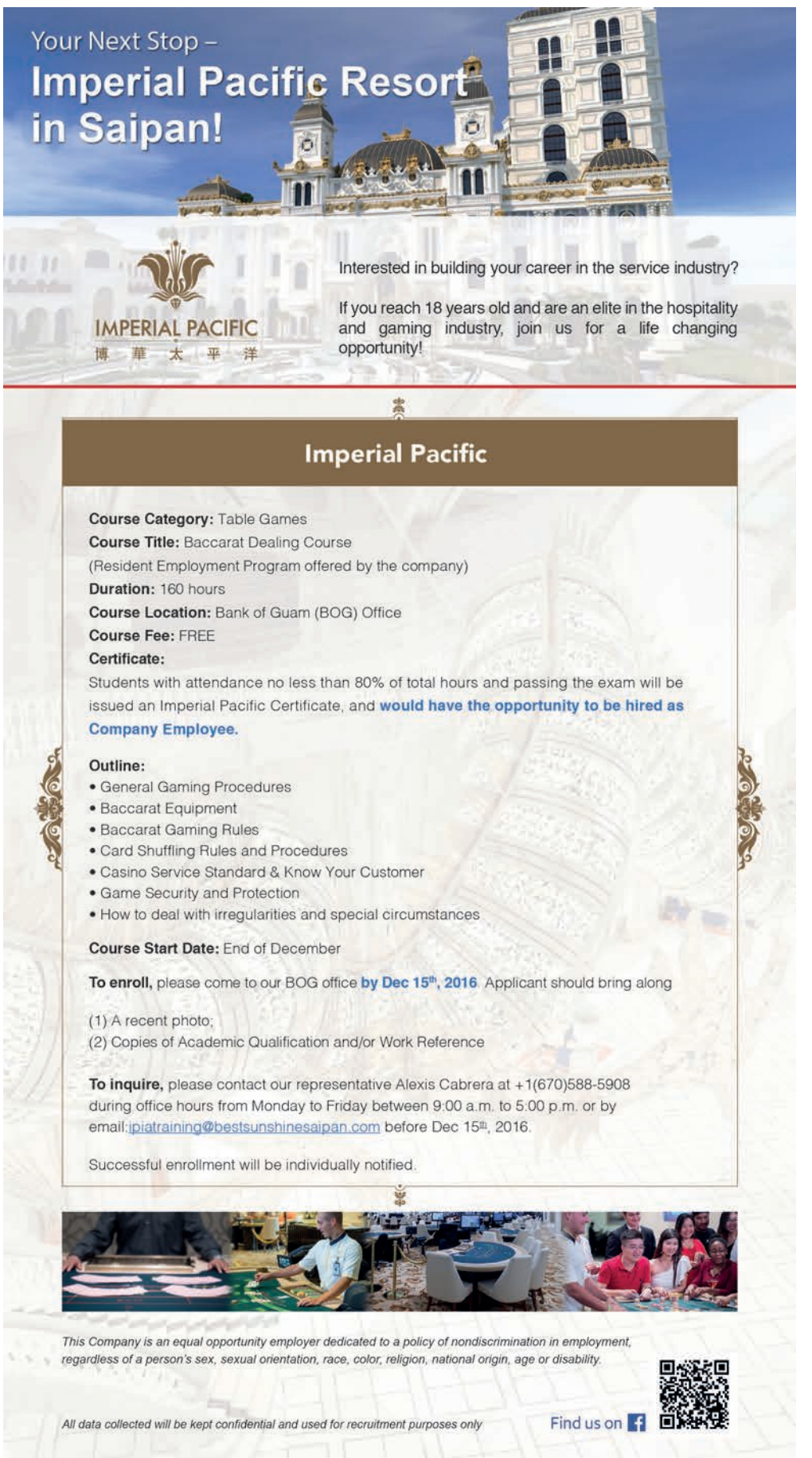
The project was well received by the attendees of the public hearing.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) applauded NMIFA and shared with the Zoning board that thinks that the land is better off used as a venue for soccer matches.

"We don't have the proper approved facilities for soccer," said Guerrero.

Frank Tomokane, a resident of Koblerville, said he supports the project.

The construction is expected to start on January 2017. Estimated completion would be in April 2017, with a buffer of up to July 2017. ***(Erwin Encinares)***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Customs chief wants streamlined goods assessment

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Division of Customs Services director Jose C. Mafnas said they are in the process of streamlining their system of assessing goods that are entering the CNMI. Customs handles the collection of duties charged by the government on imported goods.

Mafnas said he personally feels that his division was effective in the last fiscal year but believes they could still improve the system, especially with increased activity and traffic expected in the coming months.

"We do feel that we performed better this year, but I think we can improve things, [especially] when we are anticipating an increase in travelers and cargoes to the CNMI," said Mafnas.

Customs collected $43.3 million in taxes in fiscal year 2016, an almost 25-percent increase compared to $32.5 million in 2015.

Customs' system of having a cost range assessment of commodities and goods helps them in the fair assessment of value. "I know importers want their goods to be released quickly, but we cannot be content with one container so we have to come up with strategic plan to address this issue."

JON PEREZ

Oceania Customs Organization consultant Jeff Blackburn, left, talks with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, right, and Division of Customs Services director Jose C. Mafnas after their meeting last week at the Customs office at the seaport.

"We want to be fair in valuing goods and we don't want to overcharge it. We would try to establish an evaluation process that would not only set a fair assessment but also improve the movement of passengers and cargo," he added.

Mafnas' division has also considered importers who are low risk for smuggling drugs and other illegal substances but poses a higher threat in terms of undervaluing the contents of their cargo or who chooses not to declare their goods.

Following international standards and emulating the strategic plan the Oceania Customs Organization is using is among their goals. He visited Fiji last month where he saw firsthand how the system works.

"That is something we are looking to adopt here in the CNMI and I think it would greatly help our operations. That is something that we need to embrace and adopt here. We expect the strategic plan to be completed in March next year," said Mafnas. "We want to align with OCO where we expect an increase in cooperation and border security. This would improve our revenue collection and reinforce our program in securing our borders."

Last week, OCO consultant Jeff Blackburn visited the CNMI where he observed and assessed the system used by the CNMI Customs Division.

Blackburn is a trade and customs consultant hired by OCO, and the CNMI is among the 24 member countries in the region.

PROVIDED IT PAYS $2K SANCTION:

Labor to issue construction firm certificate of good standing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor administrative hearing office has agreed to issue a certificate of good standing to a construction company—provided that it pays a $2,000 fine for failing in the past to post job vacancy announcements for 45 positions.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody reversed Labor's denial of a certificate of good standing for Big Bell Inc., provided that the company complies with his order.

After Big Bell pays the sanction, Labor shall process a certificate of good standing for the company, said Cody in the order on Monday.

Cody fined Big Bell $3,000, but suspended $1,000 for two years, then extinguished, provided that the company pays the remaining $2,000 and complies with Labor's statutes and regulations during that period.

Cody ordered Big Bell to pay the $2,000 portion of the fine no later than 30 days of the date of this order.

Cody reminded Big Bell that it has a continuing obligation to post job vacancy announcements on Labor's website and to post employer declarations to online job applicants who respond to the posted JVAs.

He said Big Bell also has a continuing obligation to file documents (total workforce listings and workforce plans).

Cody warned that if Big Bell fails to comply with these obligations, Labor may request an order reinstating the suspended sanction, and imposing additional sanctions, after a due process hearing.

He said Big Bell's failure in the future to comply with Labor regulations may support the denial of an application for a certificate of good standing.

Big Bell operates a construction business on Saipan that currently employs 50 employees and 43 of them are CW-1 status employees.

'Laulau settlement dates back to 1500 BC'

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

An excavation in Laulau Bay Saipan has shown that the earliest form of settlements in the Marianas dates back to 1500 B.C.

According to a recent archaeological research at *Unai Bapot* of Laulau led by Dr. Mike Carson, carbon dating tracked the origins of items found in Laulau to over the average date around the region.

In his presentation at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Dec. 7, Carson said his team dug seven feet into the earth, the most they can do until hitting limestone. The items they found consisted of possible ornaments and pottery.

"One of the purposes of our excavation was to confirm, deny, or refine the radio carbon dating of the earliest layer. We have a number of sites in the Marianas that are about 1500 B.C. and some less than that. But with excavations we are finding things that prove to be much older," Carson said.

By comparing language with others that are somewhat simila, DNA testing of other ancient people of different ethnic backgrounds, and archaeological items found, they also found that the most probable origins of the ancient Chamorro are from islands of Southeast Asia.

"Now that we know the date range of signs of the earliest settlements here on island, our next step is to find out more about them such as their housing and food they would eat. We are still working through some things but now that we have the right time frame, we can start narrowing down our searches based on the things were found," Carson said.

During the excavation in Laulau, Carson made sure his team avoided all forms of human remains.

"We're actually allowed to look at human remains but it's not something I want to do at this time. I want to first learn as much from the ancient Chamorro through their archaeology. Once we have an idea of what to specifically look for, maybe we can start looking at the remains," said Carson.

The newest findings are from an excavation done this past October in conjunction with the CNMI Historic Preservation Office.

Bones belonging to a species of bird was found at the site as well as plant residue preserved in several items, so more research will be done to find what the two are and if they are a whole new variety from what exists today.

One attendee of the event, Josh San Nicolas, said, "I really enjoyed the presentation. There were some things they found that I really didn't know about and the questions at the end helped everyone have a better understanding of what the purpose is for digging into Laulau."

The next round of information should be ready for the public some time next year in April.

Carson is a visiting associate professor of Archaeology at the University of Guam and a faculty of the Australian National University.

This presentation was sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council as a part of its ongoing Community Lecture Series.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Dr. Mike Carson explains his findings during a presentation at the American Memorial Park on Dec. 7.

House resolution seeks to increase budget appropriation

Rep. Antonio M. Sablan (R-Saipan) has authored House Resolution 19-6 that would increase the approved revenues of the government for fiscal year 2017. Public Law 19-68 appropriated $142,209,601 as the CNMI government's operational budget for fiscal year 2017, which took effect on Sept. 28 after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed HB 19-126, also introduced by Sablan.

Torres last week issued a letter revising the identified additional funds available for appropriation. The total amount of $40,967,307.88 is ready for appropriation for fiscal year 2017.

"The Legislature desires to approve the revised resources which are available for appropriation in [fiscal year] 2017," said Sablan on HR 19-6, which will be introduced with House Bill 19-212—an act to make supplemental appropriations for CNMI government's operations—in today's House session.

The 19th Legislature, with the Senate concurring, has approved the additional amount of over $40 million that is available for appropriation.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) will then certify HR 19-6 once adopted with the House clerk and Senate legislative secretary attesting. The House clerk would then transmit the certified copy to Torres. ***(Jon Perez)***

Ayuyu of McDonald's is one of mag's Exec of the Year nominees

BARRIGADA, Guam—The president and owner of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, Jose C. "Joe" Ayuyu, has been selected as one of the nominees of *Guam Business Magazine*'s 2016 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year. He joins seven other nominees for the annual honor.

The Executive of the Year award program recognizes executives who have made outstanding contributions to the business communities of Micronesia and who have raised the bar in their fields.

The other nominees are Dr. Vincent T. Akimoto, vice president of American Medical Center; Susan M. Biolchino, president of Graphic Center Inc.; Charles E. Ewart, president of Mobil Oil Guam Inc., Mobil Oil Marianas Inc. and Mobil Oil Micronesia Inc.; Desmond Graham, president of Atkins Kroll Inc.; Stevyn J. Radonich, vice president and general manager of Smithbridge Guam Inc.; John W. Scragg, president of JWS Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Ltd.; and Jeffrey Voacolo, vice president of Micronesia Renewable Energy

Ayuyu

The winner will be revealed at the Executive of the Year award gala on Jan. 21 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, together with the release of the January-February 2017 issue of the magazine, which will feature a portrait of the winner on the cover.

Proceeds from the gala, sponsored by Sorensen Media Group, Red Dragon Agency and Delta Air Lines, will benefit the American Red Cross-Guam. Tickets are available for $175 per person and may be purchased from Chita A. Blaise, CEO of the American Red Cross, by calling (671) 472-6217 or by emailing chita.blaise@redcross.org.

Past award recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises Inc. (1983); John M. Borlas of IT&E Overseas Inc. (1984); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Paul M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); the late Kenneth T. Jones of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1994); the late Edward M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1995); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Jerry Tan of TanHoldings (2009); George Chiu of TanHoldings (2013); and Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Tropical Instant Press Inc., Saipan Shipping Co., Saipan Stevedore and Advance Carrier (2014). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Republican Party general membership meeting

CNMI Republican Party president James Ada is calling for a general membership meeting on Monday, Dec. 19, 2016, at 5:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao pavillion. ***(PR)***

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 year-end filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(PR)***

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1,054 – 1,422	0	$32	$41	$48	$54	$60	$65	$69	$74	$78	$83
1,423 – 1,790	0	0	$32	$41	$48	$54	$60	$65	$69	$74	$78
1,791 – 2,159	0	0	0	$32	$41	$48	$54	$60	$65	$69	$74
2,160 – 2,527	0	0	0	0	$32	$41	$48	$54	$60	$65	$69
2,528 – 2,896	0	0	0	0	0	$32	$41	$48	$54	$60	$65
2,897 – 3,264	0	0	0	0	0	0	$32	$41	$48	$54	$60
3,265 – 3,633	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$32	$41	$48	$54

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- CUC bill

Proof of Income:
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SVES students make their school proud

San Vicente Elementary School students have their picture taken after the Primary Grade Forensics Competition on Dec. 3 at the San Vicente school campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The canaries of San Vicente Elementary School soared at the Primary Grade Forensics Competition held Dec. 3 at the San Vicente school campus, garnering 27 award ribbons out of 46 participants.

"We are very proud of our students and parents," said SVS PGFC chair Leora Ngirablosch.

San Vicente Elementary School school principal Paulette Sablan said, "It has been four years since SVS participated in PGFC events and we are so pleased that this school year it was made possible. It was possible because we have dedicated teachers who stepped up to be coordinators/training coaches so our students would be able to participate. This is a great opportunity for our students to extend their learning outside of the classroom and showcase their talents.

"Seeing the excitement in their faces is priceless and just being able to participate (win or lose) is always a great learning opportunity. I want to thank all our teachers and parents who worked hard to prepare our students for the various PGFC events thus far. We look forward to the January event," added Sablan. ***(PR)***

Canaries shine at PGFC in November

San Vicente Elementary School parent, teachers, and students have their picture taken after the Primary Grade Forensics Competition at the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leora Ngirablosch, coordinator for the Primary Grade Forensics Competition at San Vicente Elementary School, said the SVES PCFC committee started out with one goal: to increase student reading.

"When we read we learn a lot of vocabulary words, and the more vocabulary words we know, the more we can read, and the more we can read the more we can think for ourselves," she said.

"With that focus we are able to say that any student who joins the PGFC can excel in speech and forensics whether or not their reading level is at the grade level or below or above it, it is just the joy of reading and performing poetry," said Ngirablosch.

She hopes parents will continue reading to or with their children even if there's no forensic competition.

"Reading every night is so beneficial. It will help your child at school and at home," she added.

Ngirablosch thanked parents for encouraging the students and taking them to Saturdays to judging these events, as well as the schools and their teachers.

During a Parent-Teacher Association meeting on Dec. 1, 2016, San Vicente Elementary School recognized those of its students who participated in the recently held conference competition.

K-2

2nd place, Humorous Interpretation: Angelica Hope Calvo

2nd place, Reader's Forum: Riana Jicko

3rd place, Duo: Kevin Bhujel and Reese Tolentino

2nd place, Choral Speaking: Edreanne Corroles, Ysa Li, Ysharel Sanje, Annai'lyn Castro and Joy Ann Castillo.

3rd-5th grades

1st place, Choral Speaking: Rihanna Geronimo, Kyrie Cepeda, Neveah Sanchez, Charianne Dabney and Kaitlyn Aguon

5th place, Choral Speaking: Mark Cadaun, Cleonie Masao and Sonia Bhujel.

4th place, Dramatic Interpretation: Raizel Jena Cunanan

4th place, Humorous Interpretation: Reineer Anciado

1st place, Reader's Forum: Jace Corpuz

2nd place, Kyrie Cepeda

3rd place, Ashley Therese Perez

4th place, Raizel Jena Cunanan and Roxy Li.

2nd place, Carolinian Reader's Forum: Jesner Ramon.

1st place, Chamorro Reader's Forum: Jonathan Agulto

2nd place, Duo: Jonathan Agulto and Manuel Jace Corpuz

5th place, Duo: Rihanna Geronimo and Kaitlyn Aguon ***(PR)***

SCS celebrates Christmas cheer

Students of Saipan Community School stage a school concert.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Saipan Community School recently exhibited their talents to celebrate Christmas in concerts held at the school.

According to school principal Amanda June Allen Dunn, " both our concert band and our Elementary Christmas Program proclaimed the coming of Christmas by making a joyful noise and sharing the meaning behind traditional Christmas symbols, respectively.

"We have so much to be thankful for. We thank our SCS parents and teachers for their hard work practicing with the children to make these events a success," she added.

The celebration didn't stop there! Last Thursday, Dec. 8, students from grades 3 through 8 were at Kanoa Resort for ukulele caroling to share their talents with the community and tourists as they pass by.

Ukulele caroling will continue on Dec. 15 as the school's junior high students spread Christmas cheer at the Manam'ko Center under the Office on Aging in China Town. ***(PR)***

PSS to get $10M in supplemental appropriations

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System would get the bigger share of the pie once the supplemental appropriations bill becomes law. Rep. Antonio M. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) would introduce in today's House session House Bill 19-212 at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

Sablan chairs the House Ways and Means Committee and helped put together the CNMI budget that was signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres two days before the 2016 fiscal year ended.

HB 19-212 will be funding 11 government agencies and various programs. It allocates $10,241,826 for PSS, with money to be used to pay outstanding obligations and fund their other projects.

A total of $5,541,826 is allotted to buy instructional materials for language arts, math, science, and social studies, while $2.7 million is allocated for the payment of PSS' outstanding balance with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. while $1 million will be used to buy five school buses.

The Tinian Elementary School and Tinian Junior/Senior High School will be getting $500,000. TES' perimeter fence needs to be replaced while both Tinian schools require repairs and other renovations.

Rota PSS will be given $300,000 that will be divided evenly between the Sinapalo Elementary School and the Dr. Rita Inos Junior/Senior High School. The money will be used for the daily operations of both schools, and to purchase furniture and fixtures and repair benches and other facilities.

Saipan public schools will be receiving $100,000 as payment for repairs and other maintenance work while another $100,000 is reserved to pay PSS' balance with school meal vendors.

Payments for land compensation—either stipulated, consented, and or other judgments—will be receiving $9 million, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is reserved $7 million, while $3,624,116 will go to for the central government to pay their financial obligations with CUC, while $3.5 million will be equally distributed as a bonus to all retirees or their beneficiaries.

The Fuel Adjustment Clause rate subsidy is reserved $2 million while another $2 million is set aside for the Medical Referral Program—$1.6 million would cover the expenses incurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital and the remaining $400,000 is for program operations.

All active and inactive employees will be receiving $1,451,365 as payment for their outstanding lump-sum wages that were frozen at Step 12 in accordance with Public Law 10-76 and amended by PL 11-59.

The Office of the Governor's Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program and the Community Guidance Center's programs and operations will be receiving $1 million and the appropriation shall no longer be reprogrammed. The same amount would go to the Northern Marianas College, while $150,000 is allotted to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

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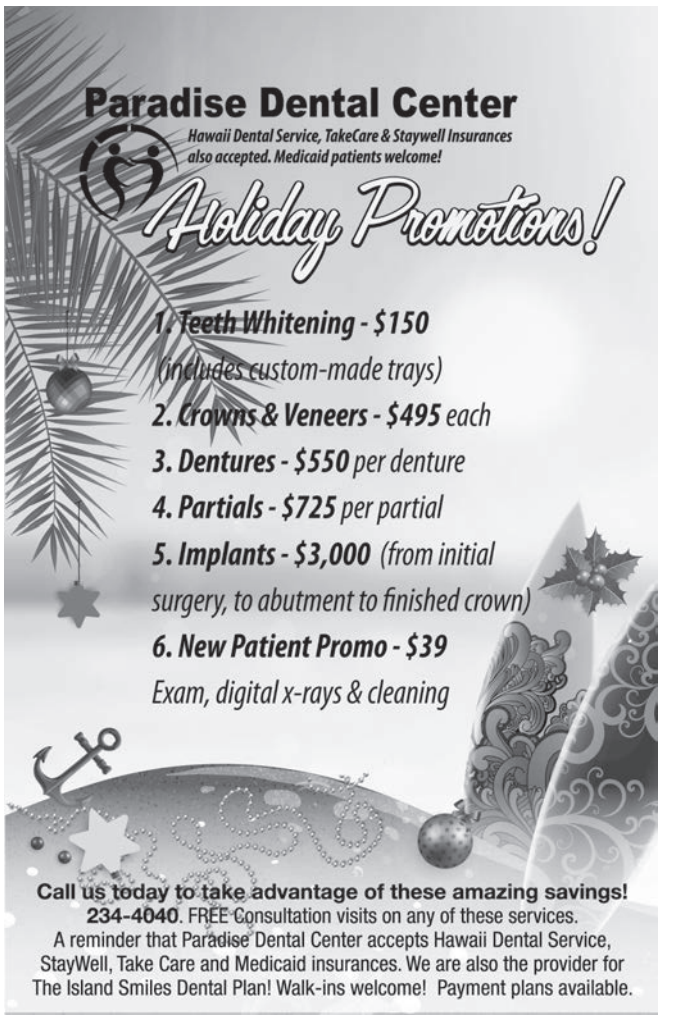
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Guam Museum director featured on 'Your Humanities Half-Hour'

Guam Museum director Dominica Tolentino was the featured guest in yesterday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program.

Tolentino

The Sen. Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum & Educational Facility (or museum) is partially open, with its grand opening planned for March 2017. Within its walls and on its grounds, the stories of the past will come alive, and new imaginings and new stories will emerge.

The Guam museum reflects the diversity, creativity, and resilience of the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. It encourages people to engage in dialogue, to share multiple perspectives and experiences, and to debate issues that concern us all today.

Tolentino, who earned a master's degree in anthropology from Georgetown University, previously served as the content editor for the online encyclopedia *Guampedia* and as a program officer with Humanities Guåhan. Yesterday, she discussed how the museum came into being and its plans for the future.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour," which airs each Sunday from 2pmto 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine Perry Harris. ***(PR)***

Rota sets sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016:

1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway, Lotgan area
2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway, Tatachog area
3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway, Guata area

■ Friday, Dec. 23, 2016:

1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway, Igua area
2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway, Uyulan area
3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway, Teteto area

■ Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016:

1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Pinatang Park
2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Guata beach
3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3

■ Friday, Dec. 30, 2016:

1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway, Igua area
2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Teteto beach
3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway, Lotgan area

■ Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016:

1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3
2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm San Francisco highway by Guata beach
3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway by Pinatang Park.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). ***(DPS)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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WHAT ARE YOU HIDING IN THERE? THE NUCLEAR CODE?
ACTUALLY, IT'S THE REPORT THAT DETAILS THE PENTAGON'S WASTEFUL SPENDING.
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

John Glenn, a man who rose high

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

"The Right Stuff" is the name of a Tom Wolfe book about our early astronauts, and if anyone ever had this stuff, it was John Glenn, dead at 95.

What a man.

He was a fearless, brilliant combat pilot in two wars. As a test pilot, he was the first to cross the continent in a supersonic jet. It made boom sounds in the air, and as he flew across his hometown in Ohio, it is reported that a little boy heard it and ran shouting, "Johnny dropped a bomb, Johnny dropped a bomb."

The bigger bomb he dropped—figuratively speaking—was becoming the first American to orbit the earth. It came in response to the Soviet Union's Sputnik challenge. The 1957 satellite whirled around us, saying Russians were our technological superiors, our educational system was failing, we could be at a military disadvantage, we were not the nation we thought we were.

We don't talk about heroes much in America anymore, but Glenn absolutely was one as he helped answer this challenge and then did more.

For a quarter of a century, he served in the U.S. Senate as a thoughtful, decent, honest man. He had received 23 combat awards and would surely have gotten as many political awards if they were also distributed. He did receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

This hero is among others who enabled us to come back against the Soviet Union's thumbing of its nose from on high. It was no easy matter, seeing as how the Soviets did not slow down, sending Yuri Gagarin up, up and away as the first man in space. We initially struggled. I myself can remember going to school assemblies to see U.S. rockets zoom into space on TV and instead seeing them blow up.

But we finally showed our technological oomph and found astronauts with the right stuff Wolfe talked about. They had brain power, muscle power, persevering determination, love of country, dedication to duty, attitudes that could not be swiveled into defeatism or retreat. They also had courage, and needed it. We were to learn that astronauts do get killed.

A moment of good cheer was in 1961 when Alan Shepard became the first American to make the up-close acquaintance of space, then we had Glenn's orbits and there was much more before the biggest hurrah of them all. That was putting the first men on the moon in 1969, fulfilling a goal of President John F. Kennedy's.

I was a reporter in Albany, N.Y., then and was sent out the rainy next day to do a batch of man-on-the-street interviews and remember writing a first paragraph about people having their heads above the clouds. They really did. The nation did. We felt amazing pride, as we absolutely should have.

We should also give a memory hug to Glenn. Heroes are as

See JOHN on Next Page

Remembering John Glenn, lawmaker

By STEPHEN M. RYAN
CQ-Roll Call

Stephen M. Ryan served as general counsel of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee under Sen. John Glenn. He is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, and Deputy Counsel of the President's Commission on Organized Crime.

WASHINGTON—John Glenn is my hero and America's hero, but he was also my boss. Senator Glenn always acted with integrity: in his marriage, in his devotion to his country, in his work with his colleagues. He was always a gentleman in the best sense.

I had the good fortune as a young child to have the measles during his February 1962 flight. We all marveled at his coolness under pressure. Subsequently, we saw all the pictures of him and his wife Annie with President Kennedy, Mrs. Kennedy and the brothers, particularly Bobby. They seemed the embodiment of Camelot.

It was part of my dream to work for him and I ended up as an advance man in his 1984 presidential campaign. I got to fly with him and work with him. The senator had a way of reminding folks about his heroism, while being so "right stuff" and self-deprecating at the same time. Joke No. 1 was as he was sitting atop the Atlas rocket waiting for launch, he realized it had been built by the lowest bidder. Joke No. 2 was based on a long-winded speaker lauding him after the historic flight and saying how there "were few truly great Americans." When he and Annie were driving home and Glenn started talking about this, he said Annie responded, "John Glenn, there is one less Great American than you may think...." We didn't think that ever really happened. All of us saw the couple as a model for how devotion in marriage could work. Their love was a constant for each other and a lesson to all who surrounded them.

But the senator's modesty and calm at times masked his killer qualities. Opponents in war or politics knew a different Glenn. We should never forget that John Glenn was one of the youngest Corsair pilots in the Pacific who flew dangerous ground support missions for his fellow Marines in World War II. He followed this by flying jet fighters in Korea, where he became known as "Magnet Ass," said with affection and respect by his colleagues, for picking up so much shrapnel from enemy anti-air fire and from flying low to the ground supporting the troops. Glenn and the greatest baseball player of all time, Ted Williams, flew together in the last days of the Korean War, and the senator downed Migs with his Sabre.

Those qualities were also on display in what came to be known as the "Gold Star Mothers" speech, during a candidates' forum during the 1974 Senate Democratic primary. Responding to his businessman opponent's contention that Glenn had never met a payroll or held a "job," he told his opponent to go to a veterans' hospital and "look those men with mangled bodies in the eyes and tell them they didn't hold a job. You go with me to any Gold Star mother and you look her in the eye and tell her that her son did not hold a job." It won him the race.

Glenn's presidential campaigning wasn't as successful. We failed to get our Democratic Eisenhower the nomination he deserved, but campaign work was enough to raise me from being an Assistant U.S. Attorney to a swanky job as counsel to what is now the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in 1987.

Glenn was doing what he always did—leading a worthy policy effort in success or failure. At leadership's request, the chairman took to the floor in a valiant and doomed attempt to raise federal civil service wages, which had bottomed out at that time in comparison to the private sector. But it was not a popular issue and we knew it would not succeed. Senator Glenn was pretty popular with his colleagues, and one after another senators spoke out against civil service raises then came over to tell him they would like to be with him but couldn't. After several hours, his neck and bald spot started to turn red. I had learned this was about the only visible sign his cool, control and laconic fighter pilot calm might be deserting him. Finally, he turned to one senator and quietly replied so only his colleague could hear, "Do what's right for the country." The lawmaker on the receiving end had a shocked look on his face and left pretty quickly. That was the only time in the years I worked for Senator Glenn that I saw him rebuke a colleague.

One time a very old senator who was on occasion losing his grip on memory chewed Senator Glenn out for a position he had taken on the Armed Services Committee. It was harsh and un-

See REMEMBERING on Next Page

The Gettysburg Address 2.0: Donald Trump's first 100 days in office

By TIBERIU DIANU
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

1. The Gettysburg Address 1.0

In the early morning of Nov. 9, 2016, Donald Trump became President-elect. His stunning series of victories in the Great Lakes states irremediably cracked the Democratic "Blue Wall" (Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania). The first question after this was: What next?

"Four score and seven years" after the U.S. declaration of independence on July 4, 1776, more precisely on Nov. 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln was delivering his famous address ("Dedicatory Remarks") at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated the armies of the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg. In just about two minutes, Lincoln delivered one of the most influential statements of national importance, in an effort to unify a deeply divided nation, in the midst of its first civil war. In the speech, the president redefined the war not just as a struggle for the Union, but also for the principle of human equality. He praised the sacrifices of the fallen on the battlefield, and acclaimed the virtues of the living. These would ensure "a new birth of freedom" for the nation, in order for a "government of the people, by the people, for the people" to "not perish from the earth."

"Four score and seven" days after the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia ended on July 28, 2016, more precisely on Oct. 22, 2016, the then-Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, was delivering his Gettysburg address, also in an effort to unify a divided nation and make America great again. While at Gettysburg, Trump chose to stop at the site of Pickett's Charge, where 12,000 Confederate soldiers attacked Union lines unsuccessfully. The place has been referred to as "the high-water mark of the Confederacy."

The Union victories at Gettysburg (Pennsylvania) and Vicksburg (Mississippi), on July 3 and 4, 1863, split the Confederacy in two, and these two battles are considered the turning point of the Civil War.

Trump's decision to stop at Pickett's Charge was not coincidental. Pickett's Charge became an iconic symbol of the cultural and literary movement known as the Lost Cause of the Confederacy. The Lost Cause is a set of beliefs that endorse the virtues of the antebellum South, viewing the civil war as an honorable struggle for the White American Southern way of life.

Consequently, Trump has channeled the energy of his supporters, who firmly believe they fight a noble cause, and fear they would be defeated because of the "rigged system" and "unfair" mainstream media. Having said that, I think it is fair to consider that the Republican Party of today captures the reborn values of the Confederacy, and Lincoln's party reflects now, to a great extent, the values of Jefferson Davis and Donald Trump.

Inspired by Lincoln's address, Trump stated that "it is my privilege to be here in Gettysburg, hallowed ground where so many lives were given in service to freedom—amazing place," that "President Lincoln served in a time of division like we've never seen before," and that "it is my hope that we can look at his example to heal the divisions we are living through right now. We are a very divided nation." He also said: "This is a struggle for the survival of our nation. This election will determine whether we are a free nation, or whether we have only the illusion of democracy, but are, in fact, controlled by a small handful of global special interests rigging the system. This is not just conspiracy, but reality, and you and I know it."

2. The Gettysburg Address 2.0

2.1. The Contract with the American voter

At Gettysburg, Trump decided to deliver his Contract with the American Voter, a 100-day action plan to Make America Great Again.

His plan is divided into four parts, each of them containing a set of "measures" and "actions." In order for its essence to be easier retained and understood, I would describe the "action plan" as a 28-article "contract" between Trump and the American voter, consisting in a "6 (measures)—7 (actions)—5 (actions)—10 (measures)" set about: cleaning up the anti-corruption and special interest in Washington, D.C.; protecting the American workers; restoring security and the constitutional rule of law; and introducing, and fighting for the passage of, broader legislative measures in the U.S. Congress.

2.2. Anti-corruption

The "anti-corruption and special interest" package contains the following six measures:

(1) propose a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress;

(2) a hiring freeze on all federal employees to reduce federal workforce through attrition (exempting military, public safety, and public health);

(3) a requirement that for every new federal regulation, two existing regulations must be eliminated;

(4) a five-year ban on White House and congressional officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government service;

(5) a lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign government;

(6) a complete ban on foreign lobbyists raising money for American elections.

2.3. Workers protection

The "American workers protection" package contains the following seven actions:

(1) announcing the intention to renegotiate NAFTA or withdraw from the deal under Article 2205;

(2) announcing the withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership;

(3) directing the Secretary of Treasury to label China a currency manipulator;

(4) directing the Secretary of Commerce and U.S. trade representative to identify all foreign trading abuses that unfairly impact American workers and directing them to use every tool under American and international law to end those abuses immediately;

(5) lifting the restrictions on the production of $50 trillion worth of job-producing American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas and clean coal;

(6) lifting the Obama-Clinton roadblocks and allowing vital energy infrastructure projects, like the Keystone pipeline, to move forward;

(7) cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs and using the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure.

To be continued tomorrow.

Tiberiu Dianu has published several books and over 100 articles in law, politics, and post-communist societies. He currently lives and works in Washington, D.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'You can't teach what you don't know'

Mr. Ambrose Bennett authored a recent publication in your paper about public sector collective bargaining subjects, triggering some points needing clarification. I fired off some basic questions for clarification that subsequently appeared in your paper as well, but he ended up being hysterical over what I thought only as points of information question.

I wrote a thesis on "Public Sector Collective Bargaining" as a course work for a master in Public Administration degree I earned from the University of Guam. This dissertation, about 300 pages long, is kept in the archive of unpublished research at the Robert F. Kennedy library of the university. Over 15 years of a career in public human resource management, I served as an employee-management relations officer of the Public Employee-Management Relations Office. As a professional practitioner in this line of work, they provided a huge impact on my career. Additionally, I was first in the government of Guam and first in the CNMI to earn the SHRM's senior professional in Human Resource designation, a valuable achievement in the human resources management field. So, Ambrose, I know that I know about public sector collective bargaining.

Let me just say, Ambrose: You can't teach what you don't know. You talk about your mother's advice about failing to listen because one disconnects and shoo away moments of conversation. While this is somewhat agreeable sometime, it is useless for one to listen and not hear. If one closes the process of hearing, it would not matter even if you use the loudest loudspeaker. You see, Ambrose, listening alone does not mean hearing which is the fundamental internalizing process that ignites the mind's purposeful engagement.

Lastly, a story of sort about a 5th grade teacher completing teaching his day's lesson plan can illustrate the point here. When the teacher completed the lesson for the day, he administered a test to evaluate the performance of his students. After giving the test, he found that his students did not fare well in the test. So he was very frustrated and disappointed with the test results. The next day, he told his students: "If any one of you that is an idiot, please stand up." All were seated except for Johnny, sitting at the back of the classroom, who stood up. The teacher then asked Johnny: "Why in the world did you stand up?" Johnny, looked frightened for a split moment, said: "But, teacher, I felt sorry and ashamed for you are the only one standing. I just wanted to help you." Ambrose, take this as your lesson.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

REMEMBERING

From Page 10

senatorial. Barely an hour later, we were back in his Hart Senate Office Building, on a late evening, and the same senator called and asked for a favor. Glenn accommodated him. I was incredulous. My Irish was up from the earlier encounter, and I asked the senator why he did it. He laughed and said the other senator no longer remembered the chewing out, and it did no harm to help him on the matter at hand. Pure Glenn. Generous beyond expectation.

The senator put together a really respectable body of public policy accomplishments, including addressing nuclear nonproliferation issues that still dog our national security. He insisted on the environmental cleanup of the Energy Department's nuclear weapons complex and an oversight board to look at its safety. He empowered inspectors general and extended the IG coverage to the CIA, to the Justice and Treasury departments and many other federal agencies. He led the legislation giving the VA and the EPA Cabinet-level status. He was a work horse in the Senate, and because he was already a hero, he quietly did the grunt work others didn't pay much attention to. He accomplished far more in his Senate career than people remember and is the only Democrat in Ohio history to have been elected four times.

The senator always stayed in shape. He ate carefully, usually a bowl of soup and an apple. One day Sens. Dennis DeConcini and Ted Kennedy got in a spat at a meeting where Glenn, Sen. Joe Biden and others were working. I was sitting between the two senators who were standing over me and watched Glenn calmly start eating Kennedy's potato chips, a delicacy he didn't normally indulge in. The careful upkeep of his body paid off in 1997 when I was able to take my son John, now a counsel in the Senate, to watch the senator's return to space in the space shuttle. I had come full circle from 1962 to 1997. As always the senator was a teacher and mentor—"flexibility" was his mantra for all of us. Of course, he used it to put back on his space suit as they used to call it.

So good bye Senator—we remember your midwestern good looks and the way you rocketed into our lives as a shining example of the duty we all owe our country.

JOHN

From Page 10

important in our lives as ideals. They give us inspiration and something to live up to. Not to recognize and embrace them is to dwell in the land of cynicism, and few things are more socially destructive.

More than a little of that is going around these days. There are those who devote their lives to finding fault with our founding fathers and just about everything else about us, summing up the American story as slavery, killing Indians and mistreating women. They forget the greatness that has overcome so much of the worst and reached to grand places.

The space story is part of our greatness. It has strengthened us, it has led to significant scientific discoveries, it gives us needed, daily information, it is the backbone of many of our communications systems, it has led to improved education, and has even gifted us with microwave ovens.

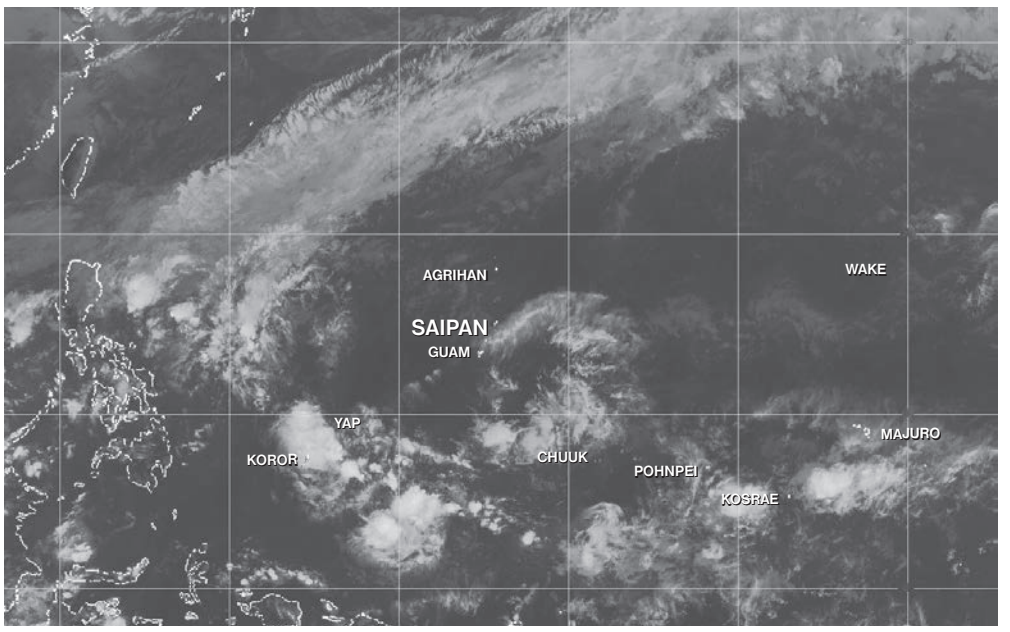
It has also inspirited us, and so thanks to those who gave us this story, not least of all John Glenn.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:11 AM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance with deep convection is evident on satellite imagery north of Chuuk, moving WNW. Across the Marianas waters, moderate trades and 4 to 6 ft seas are present. Radar shows isolated light showers mainly southeast of the islands. Moderate winds and seas will persist the next few days, with a slow fall in seas after Sunday. Rip risk should remain moderate through the forecast period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Morning clouds	80 / 87 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	78 / 86 °F
Yap	Partly sunny	79 / 83 °F
Chuuk	Afternoon clouds	79 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	78 / 86 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	81 / 86 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	82 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Morning clouds.	59 / 67 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	29 / 45 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly sunny	67 / 75 °F
Honolulu	Overcast	69 / 75 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	40 / 52 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	54 / 64 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	77 / 90 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	49 / 85 °F
Miami	Overcast	76 / 81 °F
New York	Overcast	38 / 48 °F
Osaka	High level clouds	35 / 52 °F
Paris	Sunny	39 / 46 °F
Pusan	Afternoon clouds	37 / 54 °F
Rome	Scattered clouds	46 / 60 °F
Salem	Rain	39 / 44 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	46 / 55 °F
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	19 / 41 °F
Tokyo	Mostly sunny	36 / 49 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	35 / 51 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
6:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84 Feet
11:57 AM	LOW TIDE	0.92 Feet
5:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.15 Feet
-	-	-

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Monday	-	4:16 AM	4:15 PM
Tuesday	-	5:19 AM	5:13 PM
Wednesday	-	6:23 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	-	7:26 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	-	8:26 AM	8:15 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

WPS students, parents learn about other countries

Middle school students of Whispering Palms School host a cultural fair for the rest of the school and parents, featuring the cultures of other countries.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Middle school students of Whispering Palms School hosted a cultural fair for the rest of the school and parents, featuring the cultures of other countries.

The students prepared tri-board informative material for countries of Central America and the Caribbean. They gave oral presentations, answered questions, played games from the chosen country, and served food originating from that country.

The rest of the school and parents were able to wander freely from the display to display of countries. Some of the popular food items were Jamaican lime chicken, fried bananas, and refreshing *refresco de ensalada*. Students enjoyed playing mancala, quarto, and jumping games.

All students were given life-like passports pre-made with their names, birthdates, nationality, place of birth, and school photo. As they visited each country's display, students collected the handmade passport stamps, which resembled the shape of the country being visited.

The cultural fair took place at Whispering Palms School in the middle school classroom. The room was transformed into a virtual travel agency. The students were so involved, that they continued through most of their lunch period, sharing and playing games from other cultures.

Whispering Palms School is a private school located on Navy Hill and has open enrollment year-round. ***(PR)***

2 Dandan students to represent NMI

Jonathan Wolf, left, placed first in both of his entries this year: Monologue and Duet Acting. His duet associate, Juliet Inocencio, placed second in Solo Musical.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Junior International Thespian Society through the Thespian of the Western Pacific Island held its two-day regional competition to establish this year's CNMI representatives to the Junior International Thespian Society Festival, which will take place in Sacramento, California this February 2017.

Dandan Middle School entered three of its students in the two-day competition, two of whom will be this year's CNMI representative in California.

Jonathan Wolf, last year's representative in the Junior International Thespian Society Festival in Texas, placed first in both of his entries this year: Monologue and Duet Acting. His duet associate, Juliet Inocencio, placed second in Solo Musical, while Donato Santiago Jr. placed third.

"The competitors get better and better each year, it's amazing. ...Despite the close and tight match, they all are friends after," exclaimed the DMS troupe director and coach, who was amazed at the outcome of the tournament. ***(PR)***

CHRSITMAS IN OUR JAMMIES

Students of Saipan Seventh Day Adventist Schools' Child Development Center perform during the schools Christmas program, "Christmas in our Jammies" at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific

Guam's war claims bill passes US Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued a statement Thursday last week regarding the Senate's passage of the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 92 yeas to 7 noes. The House of Representative previously passed the conference report on Dec. 2, 2016, by a vote of 375 yeas to 34 noes. The bill now goes to President Obama, who is expected to sign the measure into law.

Bordallo, her staff, and Guam Society of America members Annie and Larry Quichocho, Margie Mantanona, Lola Torres, and Ed Yanger were present in the Senate chamber during the final vote.

"This is a historic day for our island as the Senate has passed war claims legislation as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. The passage of this bill brings us a step closer to honoring Guam's greatest generation and rightfully recognizing the survivors of the occupation of Guam during World War II. The passage of the bill also has special significance as [Thurday] marks the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Guam on Dec. 8, 1941, and the start of what would be 32 months of enemy occupation by Imperial Japanese forces," said Bordallo.

"Securing passage of this bill has been a long and difficult process. Yet, despite political and budgetary challenges that we faced along the way, I never gave up on our efforts to resolve this longstanding issue for our island. This has been a long and difficult road, and I appreciate the support and assistance from many in our community, especially my predecessors in Congress who laid the groundwork for this effort, my current and former staff who worked diligently behind the scenes, and the survivors who documented and submitted their experiences during the war.

» Senate clears FY17 NDAA; heads to President for signature

"Looking forward, over the coming year, processes will be established for the survivors and heirs of those who died during the occupation to receive their claims. I will continue to work to ensure that the claims process is appropriately carried out, and I hope that Gov. [Eddie] Calvo will join me in petitioning the incoming Trump administration to hold Guam's treasury harmless in the payment of claims. I will also work with [Guam] Sen. Frank Blas Jr. and the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation to see if they can help our local community be prepared for the claims program once it is established. I think this type of public-private partnership will serve our community well. [Thursday] is a proud day for Guam, and I look forward to President Obama signing this bill into law.

"The FY17 NDAA also contains other provisions that build on the progress we have made over the past few years. The final conference report includes a provision that will require the DoD to conduct a review of service records for each military department of Asian American and Pacific Islanders who served during the Korean or Vietnam wars and earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross, but may be eligible for the Medal of Honor. I appreciate retired Co. Danny Santos for bringing several cases [in] Guam to my attention and requesting that I seek this legislative remedy. I look forward to having this review conducted in a thorough manner by the Department of Defense. This is an important win for our broader AAPI community.

"Further, the bill contains full funding for Guam's [fiscal year 2017] military construction program and it frees up funding for the construction of a cultural repository as an important mitigation identified in the supplemental EIS. This builds on progress I have made over the last two years to support civilian infrastructure projects, which included funding for civilian water and wastewater improvements projects that were recently awarded to [Guam Waterworks Authority], as well as for the cultural repository. While I am disappointed that my provision to provide [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] with flexibility in administering the H-2B program on Guam, I have received assurances by HASC Chairman Thornbury to revisit this issue next year. These are clear demonstrations of Congress' commitment to the realignment and efforts to address appropriate mitigations associated with the Marine relocation. In order to ensure the Department of Defense lives up to its 'net negative' commitment, I was also able to include a provision that requires the Navy to report next year on its plans for current and future land use on Guam.

"Finally, I thank Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith for their help and support during the Conference Committee. Their commitment to fighting for many provisions important to Guam in this year's bill was critical to our success. Although this bill is far from perfect, it addresses a number of outstanding issues facing our island and I hope that it will ultimately be enacted into law." ***(PR)***

FWCC ends 16 days campaign with human rights march

SUVA, Fiji—The Fiji Women's Crisis Center commemorated World Human Rights Day and the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women on Friday, highlighted by a march through Suva along with members of the NGO Coalition on Human Rights, activists and supporters from the public.

The march from Suva Flea Market to Sukuna Park gathered some 200 people from various organizations and backgrounds to mark the day.

Speaking at the end of the march, FWCC coordinator Shamima Ali said there were two absolutes in life—freedom and death—and that she would do whatever it took to ensure freedom and human rights for all, even if it was a struggle at times.

Friday also marked the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women. It is the period in the year when activism against gender-based violence is stepped up to highlight the continuing scourge across the world.

During this time, FWCC and its branches around Fiji heighten their activism to highlight the different forms of violence against women that is still so prevalent in all communities.

Before the human rights march, Ali spoke at a community event in Delainavesi outside Suva where about 25 people who live in Kaudamu and Kauvula roads gathered for a fitness activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Fiji Women's Crisis Center commemorated World Human Rights Day and the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women on Friday with a march through Suva.

Ali spoke about the high rates of all forms of violence against women and girls in Fiji and the role of men and boys can play in eliminating them through behavioral change.

She encouraged the community to take steps to ensure women and girls are able to live lives free from violence.

"Do not be a bystander," Ali said, encouraging everybody to respond to violence against women by supporting survivors and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Later in the morning Ali opened the Mid West Volleyball Tournament in Raiwaqa, Suva. The tournament was organized by male advocate for women's human rights Josh Tulele and sponsored by Fiji Women's Crisis Center.

The tournament had the theme "violence against women not in my game plan" and gathered more than 100 players from around Suva.

Ali was part of the founding group of 23 women's rights activists from around the world who conceived the campaign in 1991 at Rutgers University in New Jersey in the United States. ***(PR)***

First general meeting of the Pacific Islands Maritime Conference

PORT VILA, Vanuatu—The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Islands Maritime Conference which gets underway in Port Vila, Vanuatu, today will signal the official merger of four regional maritime bodies.

This meeting, which will be hosted by the government of Vanuatu in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the International Maritime Organization, will be attended by the executive members of the four regional associations that include the Pacific Islands Maritime Association, the Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance, the Pacific International Maritime Law Association, and the Pacific Island Ship owners Association.

Also attending are representatives of the Pacific Women in Maritime Association to endorse the constitution of PIMC and provide an understanding of its role along with planned activities and specialized sub-committees.

The concept to merge into a single Pacific Islands maritime association—the Pacific Islands Maritime Conference—was endorsed at the second regional meeting for ministers for maritime transport in 2009.

"By encompassing all aspects of the maritime industry, PIMC can ensure that all the relevant stakeholders are kept informed of developments both within the Pacific region and the wider maritime world," PIMC's chair Richard Coleman said. "This body has a duty to all stakeholders to ensure that safety culture is paramount in all areas of the industry as well as the concept of clean efficient energy is promoted to all maritime users."

The one-day meeting is intended to allow participants to discuss mutual issues and challenges, agree on future partnerships and membership of PIMC for financial sustainability, and endorse the two-year work plan.

"It has been a long journey to achieve the constitution of the Pacific Islands Maritime Conference. We now have the framework for a more collaborative and integrated approach of the four regional associations to participate in raising the profile of the Pacific maritime transport sector and sharing experience and initiative to assist all Pacific Island countries and territories," SPC's Deputy Director Transport Thierry Nervale said.

PIMC is now the principal interactive forum and key advisory body for national government agencies responsible for maritime affairs and sectors within the region and is a united voice for maritime affairs and sectors in the Pacific. ***(SPC)***

Business

Post-election, Trump closes companies tied to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump shut down some of his companies in the days after the election, including four that appeared connected to a possible Saudi Arabia business venture, according to corporate registrations in Delaware.

News of the move comes days before Trump was expected to describe changes he is making to his businesses to avoid potential conflicts of interest as the U.S. president.

The Trump Organization's general counsel, Alan Garten, described shutting down the four companies as routine "housecleaning," and said there was no existing Trump business venture in Saudi Arabia. The four Saudi-related companies were among at least nine companies that Trump filed paperwork to dissolve or cancel since the election.

The recent dissolutions represent a fraction of Trump's global network of companies—the breadth of which has raised conflict-of-interest concerns about whether Trump can balance being an international businessman while conducting the nation's business abroad as president.

Trump's holdings include more than 500 private companies, some of which he creates for prospective deals. The complex and changing structure makes it difficult for Americans to track his financial interests and partners. Trump has disclosed the names and some details about companies in public filings. But a complete picture of Trump's finances is unclear, given that he broke with decades of presidential precedent by not releasing his tax returns during the campaign.

Next week Trump said he plans to announce how he will separate himself from his business interests once he's president.

Trump operates branded hotels and resorts in a handful of countries around the world, though he and his executives have talked about expanding more globally. Last year, Ivanka Trump singled out the Middle East and Saudi Arabia as potential locations.

During the campaign, he created eight companies that included Jeddah, a major Saudi city, in their formal names. Four of those companies were shut down months after they were created. The other four were dissolved about one week after the election.

AP

This Monday, Sept. 12, 2016, file photo, shows the exterior of the Trump International Hotel in downtown Washington.

Trump for years has routinely named corporate entities after the projects to which they were connected. Companies set up as part of licensing or management deals in Indonesia and India bear the names of the cities where those projects are located. The same is true for some of his companies connected to properties and business ventures in the United States.

Garten said Friday that the dissolution of the companies, which occurred last month, was part of a periodic process to shed corporate entities that were no longer needed or were set up for ventures that did not materialize. Garten said he did not know why the companies were set up last year or whether they involved a business venture in Saudi Arabia that didn't happen.

"I'm not aware of any deal in Saudi Arabia," Garten told The Associated Press. "I'll go further, there is no deal in Saudi Arabia."

Garten declined to say whether the closures were related to Trump's election or his expected announcement next week about how he will be handling his businesses as president.

There is nothing preventing Trump from establishing new businesses or using his existing companies to expand in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. There also is nothing to prevent his children from re-establishing the same companies he shut down, but in a different name.

Business deals in a country like Saudi Arabia—a strategic U.S. partner—raise potential conflicts of interest because there is not much distinction between the Saudi royal family and major Saudi businesses.

It's important that the U.S. president have a close relationship with the Saudi king and crown prince, said Lori Plotkin Boghardt, a fellow at the Washington Institute and expert in U.S.-Gulf relations. "But we also want to have a president who can talk frankly to the Saudis about any complications in the relationship and uphold American interests," she said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Canada reaches carbon agreement with provinces

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Friday that his government and the majority of Canada's provinces had come to an agreement on a national carbon pricing plan. Trudeau has been working on a national carbon pricing plan with the provinces for months amid worries about the United States heading in the opposite direction and how that could put Canadian companies at an economic disadvantage. Earlier, outgoing U.S. Vice President Joe Biden urged Canadian leaders to continue to treat efforts to combat climate change urgently despite the incoming administration of Donald Trump. Trudeau called the framework agreement on a carbon tax historic. But Canada's 10 provincial leaders are not unanimous in agreeing to Trudeau's carbon tax. Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall has refused to agree to the tax; Manitoba's premier said he hasn't signed on yet because it wants more money for health care; and British Columbia Premier Christy Clark balked at first before reaching a compromise.

Coca-Cola names Quincey as next CEO, Kent stays as chairman

NEW YORK (AP)—Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent will step down from that role next year and be succeeded by the company's No. 2 executive, at a time when people are drinking less sugary soda including its flagship Coke drink. Chief Operating Officer James Quincey, long expected to become the next CEO, will take over leadership of the world's largest beverage maker on May 1, the company said Friday. Kent will remain as chairman of the board. Quincey, who's worked at Coca-Cola for about two decades, has led its drive to cut down the sugar in its drinks and said Friday that he'll continue to do that as CEO. He also said he'll keep pushing for more low-calorie beverages and for offering soda in smaller cans and bottles. He said he wants to "stay relevant" with customers by continuing to "digitize" the business, selling Coca-Cola's drinks online, through food delivery companies and any other platform customers go to in the future.

Ford CEO says Trump threats won't change small car plans

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. is going ahead with plans to move small-car production from the U.S. to Mexico despite President-elect Donald Trump's recent threats to impose tariffs on companies that move work abroad.

CEO Mark Fields said Ford's plan to move production of the Ford Focus from Michigan to Mexico will proceed, in part because U.S. consumers demand low prices for small cars. The Focus starts at $16,775, which is less than half the average price that U.S. consumers pay for new vehicles.

"It always has to start with the customer. The customer demands a certain level of price and value in that segment, and it's important for us as a company to have financial success with that product," Fields told The Associated Press in an interview Friday.

But Fields stressed that no U.S. jobs will be lost, since the Michigan plant that makes the Focus will be getting two new products.

"If you're a worker in that plant, you now have even more job security because we have two products coming in instead of one," he said.

In a series of tweets last weekend, Trump reiterated a threaten to impose a 35-percent tariff on companies that build new plants abroad and sell products back to the U.S.

"The U.S. is going to substantially reduce taxes and regulations on businesses, but any business that leaves our country for another country, fires its employees, builds a new factory or plant in the other country, and then thinks it will sell its product back into the U.S. without retribution or consequence, is WRONG!" Trump tweeted. "There will be a tax on our soon to be strong border of 35 percent for these companies."

Although Ford wasn't mentioned specifically, Trump did target the company a number of times during the campaign on the issue of trade and U.S. jobs. Trump also praised Ford last month when the company said it won't go ahead with a plan to move production of its Lincoln MKC SUV from Kentucky to Mexico.

Fields said tariffs can't be imposed on individual companies, only entire sectors, so they would wind up hurting the whole auto industry. Nissan Motor Co., General Motors Co., Fiat Chrysler and Toyota Motor Co. are among the other companies that export Mexican-made vehicles to the U.S.

Obama creates 'resilience area' to protect Bering ecosystem

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—President Barack Obama responded to appeals from Alaska Native villages and gave them more of a say in the federal management of marine resources of the Bering Sea.

Obama signed an executive order Friday to create a Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area that will focus "locally tailored" protections on marine resources.

The newly created resilience area covers 112,300 square miles and stretches from north of the Bering Strait to north of Bristol Bay.

The order requires more focused federal consultation with Alaska tribes and 39 communities that line the west coast of Alaska, along with state officials.

The area supports what may be the world's largest annual marine mammal migration of bowhead and beluga whales, Pacific walrus, ice seals and migratory birds.

The order also withdraws from federal petroleum leasing 40,300 square miles of Norton Basin and the offshore area around St. Matthew Island, two places already recognized as important marine mammal hunting areas.

Kawerak Inc., a regional non-profit corporation that provides social services to Alaska Native Villages along Alaska's west coast, and the Bering Sea Elders Group in June urged Obama to give villages more of a voice to promote self-determination in management of natural resources and habitat.

Residents of coastal villages have seen dramatic changes brought on by climate change, mostly in the form of sea ice that forms later in the winter and disappears sooner in spring. Changes in ice have modified migration patterns of marine mammals, in some cases making hunting uncertain and more dangerous.

Loss of sea ice also has opened opportunities for expanded cargo traffic, offshore petroleum drilling, tourism and other commercial activities, changes that that villages may not welcome and that could affect the security of their traditional food from the sea.

The executive order establishes a task force with village representation that will consult on federal management activities in the area and work to protect cultural and subsistence activities.

Nation

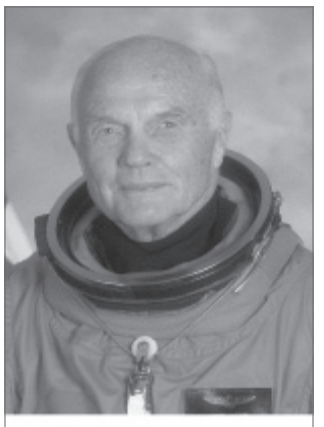
John Glenn, astronaut and senator, to lie in state in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—John Glenn will lie in state in Ohio's capitol building before a celebration of his life of military and government service and two history-making voyages into space.

The public viewing at the Ohio Statehouse and a memorial service at Ohio State University's Mershon Auditorium are planned for late next week. The dates and times were being worked out Friday, said Hank Wilson, of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. Statehouse officials meet Monday to authorize the public viewing.

Glenn, who died Thursday at age 95, was the first American to orbit the Earth, in 1962, and was the oldest man in space, at age 77 in 1998. A U.S. Marine and combat pilot, he also served as a Democratic U.S. senator, representing Ohio, for more than two decades.

Democratic President Barack Obama on Friday ordered flags at federal buildings and on ships around the world flown at half-staff until sunset on the day of Glenn's internment. Glenn is to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.



John Glenn
1921-2016

1942: Joined the Marine Corps, serving as a pilot in World War II and Korea before becoming a test pilot
1959: Selected to be an astronaut
1962: Became the first American to orbit the Earth
1975-1999: Represented Ohio in the U.S. Senate
1998: Returned to space on the Space Shuttle Discovery
2009: Awarded the Congressional Gold Medal
2012: Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Graphic: TNS
Source: NASA, U.S. Congress

AP
Visitors at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., walk through the Heroes and Legends exhibit Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, past a wreath honoring astronaut John Glenn, who passed away Thursday at age 95.

Tributes from the nation's leaders and others continued Friday.

"Throughout his life, Senator John Glenn embodied the right stuff," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a statement. "Our military in particular benefited from his courage and dedication. ... But just as important as what John Glenn accomplished is how he accomplished it: with a combination of fierce determination and profound humility, and always with integrity."

Glenn was a fighter pilot in World War II and Korea and served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, among other Washington service.

In his eastern Ohio hometown of New Concord, the John and Annie Glenn Museum, usually available this time of year only for special tours and events, opened Friday with free admission.

Char Lyn Grujoski, of Connersville, Indiana, stopped in after spotting a roadside sign for the museum while driving home from Pittsburgh and listening to a radio report on Glenn. The museum is in the astronaut's converted boyhood home. Grujoski and her daughter left impressed.

"He was a true American hero, someone who loved his country and served it," she said.

Glenn was known for his humility, said Hal Burlingame, who grew up in New Concord and was friends with Glenn for half a century.

"John Glenn that you see is the real John Glenn," Burlingame said. "He would be the same John Glenn if he happened to be sitting here today talking with us. He never took himself too seriously."

Glenn was born July 18, 1921, in Cambridge and grew up in nearby New Concord. He wed his childhood sweetheart, Anna Margaret Castor, in 1943. The couple spent their later years between Washington and Columbus.

Shutdown averted, Senate backs stop-gap spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—With less than hour to spare, the Senate late Friday backed legislation averting a government shutdown as coal-state Democrats retreated on long-term health care benefits for retired miners but promised a renewed fight for the working class next year.

The vote was 63-36 and sent the stop-gap spending bill to President Barack Obama, who signed the measure early Saturday morning. The Senate also passed and sent the president a $10 billion water bill with money for the California drought. The vote was 78-21.

The votes came hours after Democrats dropped threats to block the spending measure in hopes of using the shutdown deadline to try to win a one-year respite for 16,500 miners facing the loss of health care benefits at year's end. Instead, the legislation provides benefits at a cost of $45 million for four months.

Democrats evoked President-elect Donald Trump, a working class hero in coal country, in pressing for more benefits. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., a potential member of the Trump Cabinet, led the fight of coal-state Democrats.

But House Republicans were unrelenting—and had already vacated the Capitol for a three-week holiday—forcing Democrats to concede. Manchin acknowledged Friday night that he did not have the votes to block the bill, but said "the fight will continue" next year.

"I'm born into a family of coal miners. If I'm not going to stand up for them, who is?" he asked reporters.

Manchin was meeting with Trump on Monday.

The fight gave Democrats, who suffered devastating election losses a month ago at the hands of working-class voters, a chance to cast themselves and not the GOP as the champion of the common man. Manchin was joined by other coal-state Democrats who face re-election in 2018 in states Donald Trump won last month, including Pennsylvania and Ohio.

"We're just getting warmed up," said Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., vowing a fight next year. "These miners and their families kept their promise, put their lives at risk. ... It's not too difficult for a senator or House member to keep a promise."

Obama orders review of election-season hacking

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama has ordered intelligence officials to conduct a broad review of election-season cyberattacks, including the email hacks that rattled the presidential campaign and raised fresh concerns about Russia's meddling in U.S. elections, the White House said Friday.

The review, led by intelligence agencies, will be a "deep dive" into a possible pattern of increased "malicious cyber activity" timed to the campaign season, White House spokesman Eric Schultz said. The review will look at the tactics, targets, key actors and the U.S. government's response to the recent email hacks, as well as incidents reported in past elections, he said.

The president ordered up the report earlier this week and asked that it be completed before he leaves office next month, Schultz said.

"The president wanted this done under his watch because he takes it very seriously," he said. "We are committed to ensuring the integrity of our elections."

U.S. intelligence officials have accused Russia of hacking into Democratic officials' email accounts in an attempt to interfere with the presidential campaign. The Washington Post reported Friday that the CIA has concluded that Russia aimed specifically to help Donald Trump win the presidency.

The Post said the CIA presented its assessment to senators last week. The newspaper's report cited anonymous U.S. officials who were briefed on that closed-door meeting.

Trump's transition team was dismissive of the hacking claims Friday night, releasing a statement referring to intelligence agents as "the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction."

The Kremlin has rejected the hacking accusations.

In the months leading up to the election, email accounts of Democratic Party officials and a top Hillary Clinton campaign aide were breached, emails leaked and embarrassing and private emails posted online. Many Democrats believe the hackings benefited Trump's bid. Trump has downplayed the possibility that Russia was involved.

Schultz said the president sought the probe as a way of improving U.S. defense against cyberattacks and was not intending to question the legitimacy of Trump's victory.

Dylann Roof laughed during church slaying confession to FBI

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Dylann Roof wanted the world to know he hated black people and thought they were criminals. He thought about attacking drug dealers, but they might shoot back. So, he told the FBI, he picked a historic black church in Charleston he had learned about online.

In a videotaped confession shown Friday during his death penalty trial, Roof laughed several times and made exaggerated gun motions as he recounted the massacre. He explained that he wanted to leave at least one person alive to tell what happened and complained that his victims "complicated things" when they hid under tables.

Forty-five minutes into the interview, an FBI agent decided to tell him nine people died in the June 17, 2015, shootings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"There wasn't even that many people in there," Roof said incredulously. "Are you lying to me?"

The blurry video made it hard to see his face. After being told the details, an agent asked how he felt.

"Well, it makes me feel bad," said Roof, who earlier in the confession estimated he might have killed five.

Roof's lawyers have conceded that he carried out the attack and are concentrating on convincing jurors to spare his life in the second phase of the trial.

Later Friday, Roof's handwritten journal was read aloud. It was full of dubious, offensive racial claims about blacks and Jews, from stories about African-Americans enjoying slavery to segregation keeping white people from being dragged down.

"How could our faces, skin color and body structure be so different, but our brains exactly the same?" Roof wrote.

His video confession came about 17 hours after the shooting. FBI agents drove to Shelby, North Carolina, where he was arrested. The plane that would take him back to Charleston was not going to arrive for a few hours. So FBI agent Michael Stansbury got permission to take a chance and interview him immediately.

It paid off. After reading Roof his rights and engaging in brief small talk, an agent asked Roof what he was doing on the night of the killings.

"I went to that church in Charleston and, uh, I did it," he said.

Roof said he wanted to kill black people because they rape white women daily. Agents asked why he chose Emanuel AME. He said online it was listed as the oldest black church in the South, and there probably would not be any white people there.

Asia

World Vision says hundreds affected by Solomon Islands quake

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Hundreds of people in remote parts of the Solomon Islands have had their homes damaged or destroyed by a powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck Friday, an aid organization said.

There have been no deaths reported from the quake, which also caused some small tsunami waves in the Solomon Islands and other Pacific islands.

Speaking from the capital Honiara, Suzy Sainovski, World Vision's Pacific Timor-Leste spokeswoman, said it has been hard to get a full assessment from some more remote communities, some of which don't have cellphone coverage.

"There are some initial reports that 3,000 people have been affected," Sainovski said. "Some of these are traditional houses that are on stilts, and made with vegetation."

The quake struck near the island of Makira. Sainovski said in the town of Kirakira on the island, the quake damaged a hospital, a church and other buildings including the World Vision office. She said 20 people were evacuated from a hospital.

She said the quake had caused some power failures throughout the country.

Micha Maghe, World Vision's water sanitation and health project coordinator in Kirakira, said the quake had been terrifying.

"When I got outside I could hear children crying, people shouting," she said in a statement. "We assembled at a school and I saw people moving towards high ground. ... People just panicked and were frightened."

Sainovski said there continued to be a number of aftershocks and power cuts.

Tsunami warnings for several Pacific islands, including Hawaii, were canceled Friday after authorities determined the earthquake didn't pose a broad tsunami threat.

The region was later hit by a 6.9 aftershock.

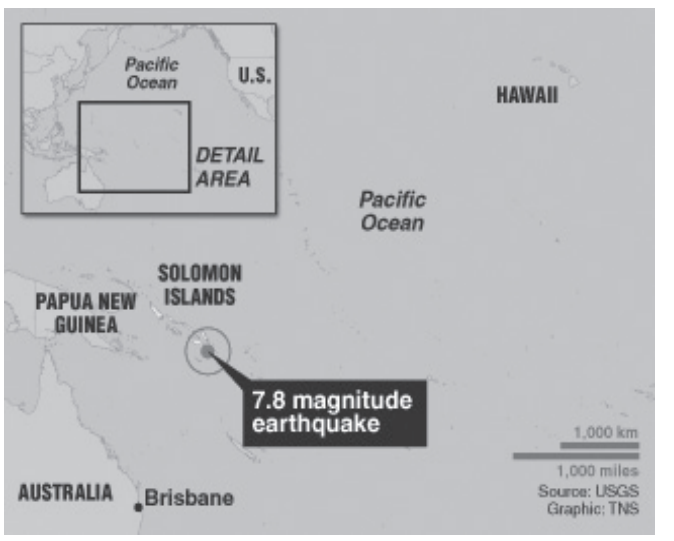
The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake hit about 200 kilometers (120 miles) southeast of Honiara and about 68 kilometers (42 miles) from Kirakira.

The epicenter was relatively deep at 48 kilometers (30 miles) below the surface. Deeper quakes generally cause less damage on the ground.

The Solomon Islands are located in the Pacific's geologically active "Ring of Fire."

AP

In this photo provided by World Vision Solomon Islands, a house in Kirakira, Solomon Islands, is damaged after an earthquake on Friday, Dec. 9, 2016.



South Korean president impeachment tarnishes family legacy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Park Geun-hye could always rely on one unwavering gift throughout a political career that saw a triumphant return as South Korea's first female president to the palatial Blue House where she'd lived as a girl: She enjoyed the reflected devotion, some might say worship, that half the country felt for her late dictator father.

In the end—isolated, mocked and loathed by millions of protesters who swarmed the streets around her presidential fortress on the side of a sacred granite mountain—even the conservative adulation that had been her political bedrock failed to save her.

Parliament impeached Park and stripped her of all power Friday amid fury over prosecution claims that she had handed over extraordinary power to a corrupt friend. Her prime minister takes over while the nation's Constitutional Court reviews whether to accept the lawmakers' vote and drive her permanently from office.

Park could still wriggle out of the noose if the court goes against the overwhelming sentiment most of the country seems to share and restores her presidency. But her dream of extending the legacy of her father, Park Chung-hee, is ruined.

It is hard to imagine a more absolute fall for a woman who conservatives had long cherished as the self-sacrificing "Daughter of the Nation," a woman who survived a knife attack a decade ago on the campaign trail that left her face slashed, and who rose above widespread sexism to build a political juggernaut.

Her supporters admired the student who put aside girlish dreams to serve as first lady after her mother was assassinated in 1974; the leader who shunned her brother and sister to avoid the corruption that had brought down so many others; the spinster who shut down any semblance of romantic love to devote herself entirely to public service.

None of it, though, was enough to efface the public anger and shame that has flooded over her as the details of a remarkable scandal emerged.

The speed of the collapse has been as remarkable as it has been comprehensive.

It was only a month and a half ago that Park made a surprise apology to the nation and acknowledged that she had relied on an old friend to help edit speeches and conduct unspecified "public relations."

Manila says will not help US on patrols in South China Sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense secretary said Thursday it is highly unlikely his country will allow the U.S. military to use it as a springboard for freedom of navigation patrols in the disputed South China Sea to avoid antagonizing China.

Delfin Lorenzana said U.S. ships and aircraft could use bases in Guam, Okinawa or fly from aircraft carriers to patrol the disputed waters.

Under President Rodrigo Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, some U.S. aircraft and ships stopped in the Philippines on the way to patrolling the disputed waters to challenge China's territorial claims.

Duterte, who took office in June, has taken steps to mend ties with China and became hostile toward the Obama administration after it raised concerns over Duterte's deadly crackdown on illegal drugs.

Asked if the Philippines will continue to host U.S. ships and aircraft patrolling the disputed waters, Lorenzana said Duterte will not likely allow that to happen "to avoid any provocative actions that can escalate tensions in the South China Sea. It's unlikely."

"We'll avoid that for the meantime," Lorenzana said. "Anyway, the U.S. can fly over there coming from other bases."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said Thursday she could not comment on Lorenzana's remarks as she hadn't seen them, but added: "Our adherence to freedom of navigation is well known. You know, we will fly, we will sail anywhere within international waters and we will continue that."

The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. Harry Harris, said last month that despite Duterte's rhetoric, military cooperation with Manila has not changed.

Duterte has publicly threatened to scale back the Philippines' military engagements with the U.S., including scuttling a plan to carry out joint patrols with the U.S. Navy in the disputed waters, which he said China opposes.

U.S.-Philippine annual combat exercises have been reduced and will be redesigned to focus on disaster response and humanitarian missions. Among the maneuvers to be dropped starting next year are amphibious landing exercises and beach raids aimed at enhancing the country's territorial defense, military officials said.

Rights group, worried about HIV, urges PH action

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A human rights group says the Philippines is facing one of the fastest growing epidemics of HIV in the Asia Pacific, fueled by government policies that restrict intervention, including access to condoms by men who have sex with men.

Human Rights Watch said in a report released Thursday that HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men has increased tenfold in the last five years, but the government has failed to adequately target prevention measures on that population.

It said HIV prevention education in Philippine schools is woefully inadequate, commercial marketing of condoms is nonexistent, and barriers to condom access and HIV testing—particularly those below 18 who are required by law to have parental consent— have contributed to the worsening epidemic.

The report said the problems found in national and local government policies are compounded by longstanding resistance of the Roman Catholic church to contraceptives. More than 80 percent of Filipinos are Catholic.

Peter Mosende, a country officer of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS or UNAIDS, said the Philippines has the highest rate of new HIV infections in the Asia-Pacific region, with new cases increasing by more than 100 percent from 2001 to 2015.

The Department of Health said it recorded 38,114 cases of HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, from January 1984 to October 2016 — less than 1 percent of a population of more than 100 million. But the rate of increase has been alarming, with 32,099 of the cases recorded from 2011 to 2016. Officials estimate there could 55,000 cases by the end of 2016.

For the first 10 months of this year, 7,756 new HIV cases were recorded. From one new case a day in 2008, today 26 new infections are recorded daily.

Beginning in 2010, the transmission trend shifted from male-female sex to male-to-male sex, which this year accounts for 87 percent of new infections, the health department said. More than half of those infected men are 25 to 34 years old, and nearly 30 percent are aged 15 to 24.

"The government had a pretty good track record of fighting HIV-AIDS, but basically they are fighting the last war," Phelim Kine, HRW deputy director for asia, said in an interview. "They are still focusing on female sex workers and their clients when actually the epidemic has changed, but the government's approach is not changing and it needs to or else this will really get out of control."

World

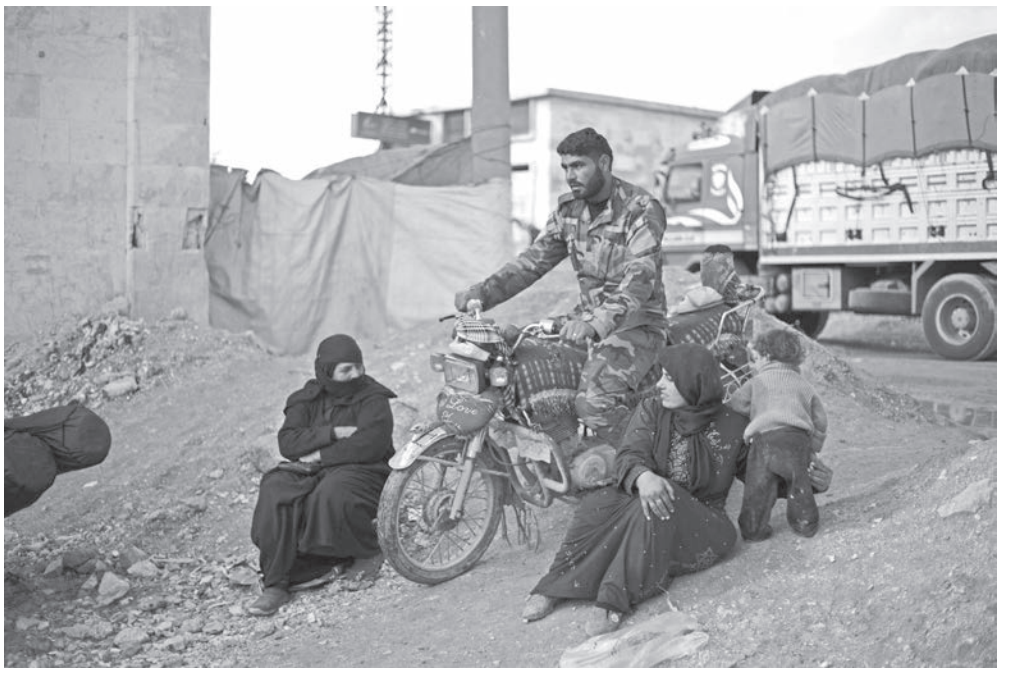
Syrian forces squeeze Aleppo, bring new wave of evacuations

BEIRUT (AP)—Nearly two weeks into a crushing blitz, Syrian forces and their allies have taken control of nearly all of what was once an opposition stronghold in eastern Aleppo, touching off a new wave of evacuations Friday and raising concerns about hundreds of men who have disappeared and are feared to have been seized by the government.

A flood of civilians streamed out on foot in the wake of the relentless campaign by forces loyal to President Bashar Assad to drive rebels from their rapidly crumbling enclave. They joined tens of thousands who have fled since Nov. 26, seeking shelter from the nonstop bombardment and crippling siege.

"The writing on the wall looks as if eastern Aleppo's battle is virtually over," said Staffan de Mistura, the U.N. special envoy to Syria, in an interview with The Associated Press at U.N. headquarters.

The U.N. human rights office expressed deep concern about reports that hundreds of men have vanished after crossing from eastern Aleppo into government-controlled areas.



AP

A Syrian soldier passes by Syrian women that displaced with their families from eastern Aleppo in the village of Jibreen south of Aleppo, Syria, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016.

Relatives reported losing contact with the men, who are between the ages of 30 and 50, after they fled opposition-held areas about a week to 10 days ago, said U.N. spokesman Rupert Colville. It was not clear whether they were fighters or civilians.

Colville also said the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights is also concerned by reports that some civilians trying to flee are being blocked by armed opposition groups and, in some cases, fired upon.

"Civilians are being used as pawns and prevented from leaving," he said at a briefing in Geneva. He estimated there may be about 100,000 civilians in areas under the control of armed opposition groups. They include about 500 medical cases of people in need of urgent evacuation.

Syrian state TV broadcast video of families emerging from the ravaged eastern districts, the enclave that had been held by rebels since 2012.

Government-owned al-Ikhbariya TV showed civilians on foot and at least one bus snaking through the Ballour crossing, saying they came from the Saleheen, Fardous and Sheikh Saeed neighborhoods in the southern part of eastern Aleppo.

On Thursday, Russia announced the Syrian army was suspending combat operations to allow for civilians to leave besieged rebel-held districts, but residents and medics in the neighborhoods said there was no letup in the bombardment.

"Bombing is truly round the clock," said Ziad Mohammed, a lawyer and father of three, who is still in the al-Mashhad neighborhood. "There are no hospitals, the remnants of the dead fill the streets and the wounded have to fend for themselves."

Mohammad, an outspoken government opponent, said he and many of those remaining were bracing for certain death.

"If staying here means dying here, then standing by my principles will have been enough," he said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Friday that Aleppo was still under intense fighting. "We saw, I think, a brief pause yesterday, but all too brief. There's been no consistent pause in the fighting that we have seen."

Earlier this week, efforts faltered to evacuate hundreds of wounded despite pleas from medical officials. A hospital administrator in the east said medics have submitted lists of patients who need to be moved out.

"There hasn't been a response yet, and the shelling continues," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Rebel defenses have collapsed in the government offensive and intense bombing.

In a sign of the Assad government's growing confidence about Aleppo, the Foreign Ministry said officials were prepared to resume intra-Syrian talks on its own terms.

Diplomat: Geneva meeting could avoid 'destruction' in Aleppo

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A meeting on Saturday between Moscow and Washington is extremely important because it could avoid "massive destruction" if a plan for evacuating rebel fighters and civilians from war-ravaged Aleppo can be worked out, the U.N.'s special envoy to Syria said.

Staffan de Mistura said in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday that "the writing on the wall looks as if eastern Aleppo's battle is virtually over," and he hopes the meeting in Geneva will lead to an alternative to the bloodshed that would surely come with the last part of the battle for the city.

Syrian forces and their allies have taken control of nearly all of the former opposition stronghold. Russia and militias allied with Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah have been staunch supporters of President Bashar Assad in his country's bloody civil war, now in its sixth year.

Civilians streamed out on foot in the wake of the relentless military campaign to drive rebels from their crumbling enclave. They joined thousands who have fled since Nov. 26, seeking shelter from the nonstop bombardment and crippling siege.

Government forces and allied militiamen say they control nearly 90 percent of what was once rebel-held territory—a figure the opposition disputes.

De Mistura said it would be a "major achievement" if rebel fighters were to be allowed to safely withdraw along with citizens who are trapped in the city who want to follow them.

"I myself have expressed horror at the idea that by Christmas we would have the final part of the so-called battle for Aleppo that could have ended up in massive destruction—no Aleppo left—and 200,000 refugees streaming toward Turkey," he said. "None of this may happen, or not to that extent" if an agreement is reached at Saturday's meeting.

Longtime Gambian ruler now refuses to step aside

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Gambia's ruler of more than 22 years announced late Friday that he no longer accepts defeat in the country's presidential election, reversing course a week after he conceded to his rival.

In a speech on state television, President Yahya Jammeh said that investigations since the Dec. 1 vote have revealed a number of voting irregularities that he called unacceptable.

"I hereby reject the results in totality," he said in his address that aired late Friday. "Let me repeat: I will not accept the results based on what has happened."

Only one week ago, a jovial Jammeh was filmed on state television calling opposition candidate Adama Barrow to wish him the best.

"You are the elected president of The Gambia, and I wish you all the best," Jammeh told Barrow at the time. "I have no ill will."

The dramatic about-face was certain to spark outrage among the opposition and the tens of thousands of Gambians living in exile abroad. Already in the week since Jammeh had been defeated, several dozen political prisoners had been released on bail.

"We are deeply concerned by reports of belated objections to the Gambian election results raised by President Jammeh," said Babatunde Olugboji, deputy program director at Human Rights Watch. "The international community, notably (regional bloc) ECOWAS and the African Union, should loudly protest any unlawful attempt to subvert the will of the Gambian people."

The U.S. government also condemned Jammeh's rejection of the election result, calling it an attempt to remain in power illegitimately.

"The people have spoken and it is time for Gambians to come together to ensure a peaceful transition to President-elect Barrow," said State Department spokesman Mark Toner in a statement.

It remained unclear whether the tiny country of 1.9 million people would accept Jammeh's continued rule. As news spread last week of his defeat, Gambians took to the streets—singing, dancing and shouting "Freedom!"

Under Jammeh's rule, the country surrounded almost entirely by Senegal has become notorious for its abysmal human rights record as well as the president's erratic behavior.

WORLD BRIEFS

France's court annuls Kazakh banker's extradition to Russia

PARIS (AP)—A top French court refused to hand over a Kazakh banker-turned-dissident to Russia despite accusations he embezzled millions, saying it considered the extradition request from Moscow to be "politically motivated." Hours after Friday's ruling, Mukhtar Ablyazov walked free from a French prison, hugging his son, brother and lawyer. It was a surprise twist in a winding legal saga that has lasted years and spanned several countries. Ablyazov's lawyers had asked France's Council of State to block his extradition, fearing Russia would quickly send him back to Kazakhstan. The Council of State noted in its decision that the Kazakh and Russian authorities have "repeatedly" held consultations on Ablyazov's case. Requests for the return of criminal suspects can be rejected if they are judged to be politically motivated.

3 detectives killed, burned in southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The charred remains of three federal detectives were found Friday in the bed of a burning pickup truck in the southern Mexico resort of Zihuatanejo. A fourth person's remains were found nearby along with a hand-lettered sign containing an apparent reference to a drug gang. The sign suggested the killings were in retaliation against people who protected a gang purportedly linked to the Jalisco New Generation cartel. The security spokesman for the southern state of Guerrero, Roberto Alvarez, said the detectives' bodies had been covered with logs and set afire. Their weapons were also burned. Alvarez said the agents were reported missing on Thursday.

Sources: Google to give Cubans faster access to content

HAVANA (AP)—Google and the Cuban government have struck a deal giving Cubans faster access to the internet giant's content, two people familiar with the agreement said Friday. Eric Schmidt, chairman of Google's parent company, will formally sign the deal Monday morning in Havana, the two people said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement has not yet been publicly announced. It allows Cubans access to a network called Google Global Cache that stores content from Google-run sites like Gmail, Google Drive and YouTube on servers that sit within relatively short distances of their end users around the world. Cuba suffers from some of the world's slowest internet speeds due to a range of problems that include the convoluted, and thus slower, paths that data must travel between Cuban users and servers that are often in the U.S.

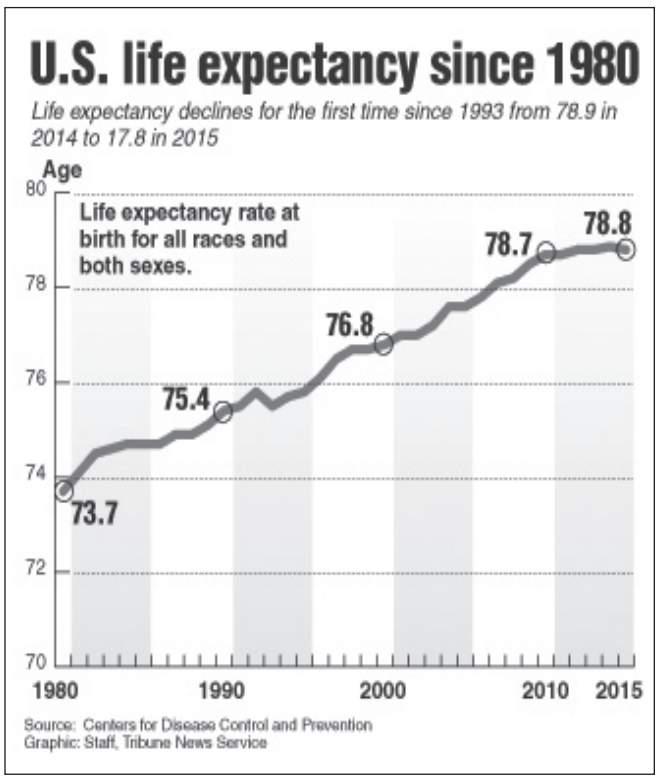
Health & Fitness

Life expectancy in the US was 36.5 days shorter in 2015 than in 2014

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TNS

Women who turned 65 in 2015 could expect to live another 20.6 years, on average, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, while men who reached that milestone birthday last year could expect another 18 years of life.



The final numbers for 2015 are in and it's now official: Life expectancy for Americans was shorter last year than it was the year before.

A person born in the U.S. in 2015 could expect to live 78.8 years, on average. That's 0.1 years — or 36.5 days — less than in 2014.

The main reason for this decline is that eight of the nation's 10 leading causes of death were deadlier in 2015 than in years past, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Heart disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases, unintentional injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, kidney disease and suicide all claimed more lives last year.

A total of 2,712,630 official deaths were registered in the United States in 2015, an increase of 86,212 compared with 2014.

Those additional deaths boosted the country's age-adjusted death rate for the first time since 1999, the CDC said. For every 100,000 people in a "standard population" — a hypothetical group with the same age distribution the country had in 2000 — there were 733.1 deaths in 2015, up from 724.6 in 2014. (Age-adjusted death rates allow for easier comparisons from year to year, since increases or decreases can't be chalked up to the fact that the total population is older or younger than in years past, the CDC explains.)

The increase in age-adjusted death rates was concentrated in certain demographic groups. It rose 1.6 percent for white women, 1 percent for white men and 0.9 percent for black men, according to the report. No significant increases were seen for Latinos or for black women. Figures for Asian Americans were not reported.

Heart disease remained the leading cause of death last year, accounting for 168.5 deaths per 100,000 people in a standard population. Cancer was a close second, taking 158.5 lives per 100,000 people. Altogether, the 10 leading causes of death were responsible for 74.2 percent of all deaths in the country last year.

One bright spot in the report was that the age-adjusted death rate for cancer fell 1.7 percent in 2015 compared to 2014. It was the only leading cause of death to experience a decline last year.

Deaths from influenza and pneumonia held steady, while the eight others rose. Notably, the age-adjusted death rate for Alzheimer's increased 15.7 percent last year compared to the year before.

Overall, women continued to outlive men, and that gender gap grew by 0.1 years in 2015. The life expectancy for boys born in 2015 was 76.3 years (0.2 years lower than in 2014) and the life expectancy for girls born in 2015 was 81.2 years (0.1 years lower than in 2014).

Women who turned 65 in 2015 could expect to live another 20.6 years, on average, while men who reached that milestone birthday last year could expect another 18 years of life.

The 2015 infant mortality rate was 589.5 deaths per 100,000 live births, a slight increase from the 2014 rate of 582.1 deaths per 100,000 live births. That change was too small to be statistically significant, the CDC said.

The 10 leading causes of death for babies under 1 year remained the same in 2015 as in 2014. Sudden infant death syndrome moved up a notch from fourth place to third, switching places with maternal complications. Congenital malformations and low birth weight remained the first and second leading causes of infant death.

The report was published Thursday by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

Surgeon general: E-cigarettes are 'major public health concern,' especially for young people

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Electronic cigarettes have all the addictive potential of traditional tobacco products, and health officials should do all they can to keep them out of the hands of teens and young adults, according to the federal government's first comprehensive review of e-cigarettes.

The report released Thursday by the U.S. surgeon general focuses on Americans under the age of 25, the cohort that has embraced e-cigarettes with the most enthusiasm. Teens and young adults are more likely to be using the vaping devices than people in any other age group. Indeed, among middle and high school students, e-cigarettes have become more popular than traditional cigarettes.

These trends are alarming to public health officials for several reasons. Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been warning for years that e-cigarettes have the potential to get kids hooked on nicotine, paving the way for them to "graduate" to regular smoking and setting themselves up for a lifetime of addiction. About 90 percent of adult smokers say they started smoking as teens.

Plus, mounting scientific evidence suggests the adolescent brain is uniquely vulnerable to the harmful effects of nicotine. Among other problems, nicotine exposure can lead to "reduced impulse control, deficits in attention and cognition, and mood disorders," Dr. Vivek Murthy, the surgeon general, wrote in a preface to the report.

Put it all together, and "e-cigarette use among U.S. youth and young adults is now a major public health concern," Murthy wrote.

In 2011, when the National Youth Tobacco Survey began tracking e-cigarette use, fewer than 5 percent of middle and high school students said they had tried the devices. By 2015, more than 1 in 10 middle-schoolers and 1 in 3 high-schoolers had used them at least once, according to the survey

Many of these students are vaping on a regular basis. Last year, 16 percent of high school students used e-cigarettes at least once in the 30 days before they took the survey, up from 1.5 percent in 2011. That 16 percent translates into 2.4 million teens. In addition, 5.3 percent of middle school students — or 620,000 younger adolescents — vaped at least once in the month before they were surveyed.

Among young adults 18 to 25, 55 percent of electronic cigarette users also smoke regular cigarettes, according to CDC data from 2013 and 2014. Although older smokers often use e-cigarettes to help them kick the habit, this is not a common practice for young adults, the report says.

Americans spent an estimated $3.5 billion on e-cigarette products last year, a 40 percent increase from the year before. Purveyors of e-cigarettes have lured their young customers by using the same tactics once employed by Big Tobacco, including ads highlighting themes like freedom and sex, according to the report. E-cigarettes appeal to teens and young adults because they heat liquids with flavors like mint chocolate and milk and cookies.

They also benefit from the perception that vaping is safer than smoking. That may be true, but the devices are far from harmless, the report emphasizes.

"E-cigarette aerosol is not harmless 'water vapor,' " the report says. "Users of e-cigarettes risk respiratory exposure to a variety of aerosolized chemicals," including several known to cause cancer.

The nearly 300-page report from the surgeon general doesn't include much new data on e-cigarette use or the health risks they present. But it does include a research agenda to help fill gaps in knowledge. Among the most pressing questions: Do the chemicals in e-cigarette liquids become more dangerous when heated? To what degree are those chemicals absorbed into the bloodstream? Could changes in product design minimize the risk?

On the epidemiology front, long-term studies of teens and young adults are needed to determine whether e-cigarettes really do make people more likely to take up smoking or if they take the place of traditional cigarettes, among other questions.

Even before all the answers are in, there are things health officials can do in the name of protecting young people, the report says.

One of the biggies is to allow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate how e-cigarettes are manufactured, marketed and sold. The FDA has announced its intention to prohibit sales of e-cigarettes to minors, ban free samples of vaping products and mandate health warnings about the nicotine, among other measures. The FDA says it has this authority under the Tobacco Control Act, but the matter is currently tied up in court.

State and local governments should extend smoking bans to include electronic cigarettes, even indoors, the surgeon general argues. Meanwhile, health officials should educate pediatricians, teachers, coaches and parents so they can help teens and young adults steer clear of the devices.

"We know a great deal about what works to effectively prevent tobacco use among young people," the report says. "Now we must apply these strategies to e-cigarettes."

Life & Style

Inside Kirk Douglas' intimate 100th birthday celebration

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Kirk Douglas knows how to make an entrance. With boxing gloves in every centerpiece and the theme from "Rocky" blaring over the speakers, Douglas, one of the golden age of Hollywood's last living legends, walked confidently into the Sunset Room at the Beverly Hills Hotel Friday afternoon to celebrate his 100th birthday at an intimate gathering of friends and family.

Flanked by Anne Douglas, his wife of over 62 years, his son Michael Douglas, his daughter-in-law Catherine Zeta-Jones and his grandchildren, Kirk Douglas looked out over the crowd of about 150 people, including Don Rickles, Jeffrey Katzenberg, his Rabbi and many of his closest friends and smiled. Not only was he surrounded by friendly faces, he knew, as promised by his doctor years ago, that if he lived to 100, he would get to have a glass of vodka.

But before the vodka was presented in a comically large martini glass, Kirk Douglas got to sit and listen to words from his loved ones as images from his many classic film credits such as "Spartacus," ''Lust for Life," ''Paths of Glory" and others played on a screen behind him.

Michael Douglas kicked off the proceedings, saying that it's not just about age, but about the life he's lived and what he's accomplished.

"One of the things that I find most incredible about dad is the third act of his life," said Michael Douglas. "After all he accomplished in his professional career and what he's given for his country, at the point in his life where he's faced adversity, losing a son, having a helicopter crash, having a stroke, and what he's accomplished in this third act in his life, I find quite extraordinary."

AP

Actor Kirk Douglas arrives at his 100th birthday party as his daughter-in-law Catherine Zeta-Jones, second from right, and her daughter Carys applaud at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Friday, Dec. 9. 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Kirk Douglas kept his remarks brief.

"I wonder who he was talking about? He said some nice things about someone I don't know," Kirk Douglas said, joking that Michael Douglas was chosen to organize the proceedings because "he has the most money."

Kirk Douglas also thanked everyone for coming and marveled at seeing most of his family in the crowd.

Zeta-Jones then lit the 12 candles on the cake.

"I'm so glad there's not 100!" she exclaimed, before leading the room to sing "Happy Birthday" with a string quartet accompaniment.

It was only the start of the afternoon, which included remarks from a few of his seven grandchildren, his Rabbi and his doctor. Charley King's Bluebell Events oversaw the afternoon tea where each table was designated not by numbers but by Kirk Douglas's films. The birthday boy was seated at the "Lonely Are the Brave" table, which is his favorite film.

Don Rickles lightened the reverent and respectful mood, quipping to the crowd from his seat that he wanted to go home.

He poked fun at Kirk Douglas's good looks and physique saying that he had to hear the "I'm Spartacus crap" every day, and how Burt Lancaster used to advise him that Kirk Douglas "doesn't know what he's talking about."

Rickles did get a bit choked up by the end.

"You are an outstanding man because you've been blessed with warmth and love and class, and ... ah, forget it, you're all of that and more," He said. "May god give you strength and may you be with us for 100 more. If that's his wish, so be it, if not, I know in heaven you'll be in charge."

Off to the side, actress and dancer Neile Adams, who was Steve McQueen's first wife, recalled Douglas's mischievous side.

"Kirk was terrible when he was a young man! You could not sit beside him without his hand crawling up your leg. When Steve would leave the room suddenly he'd be on me," she said with a hearty laugh. "But he was cute."

She recalled his resilience, when a few years ago he had both of his knees replaced. Michael Douglas, she said, tried to encourage him to just do one and get a chair. Kirk Douglas, however, had a different idea and it didn't involve a wheelchair.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Climate change film 'An Inconvenient Truth' gets a sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Al Gore's climate change documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," is getting a sequel. Paramount Pictures said Friday the follow-up to the Oscar-winning original will premiere at next January's Sundance Film Festival. In the new documentary, former Vice President Gore examines global warming's escalation and the solutions at hand, Paramount said. In a statement, Gore called for a rededication to solving what he called the climate crisis and said there are reasons to be hopeful. He met this week with President-elect Donald Trump to discuss the topic and termed the meeting productive. Several days later, Trump picked Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a climate-change denier, as head of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Sundance festival said it will feature other films and events about environmental change and conservation.

Gospel singer Shirley Caesar sues Georgia artist over song

ATLANTA (AP)—Grammy-winning gospel singer Shirley Caesar, whose sermon-song "Hold My Mule" went viral a few years ago, is suing a Georgia rapper over a remix of her song. The lawsuit, filed this week in Gwinnett County, accuses Keenan Webb—known as DJ Suede—of releasing an unauthorized version. The clerk's office says the court file does not yet list an attorney for Webb. Caesar's attorney, James Walker, said the only official version authorized by her has been performed by Snoop Dogg. Walker said Suede's video of the song includes references to alcohol, which is objectionable to the gospel singer. Caesar said she originally recorded the song in 1988. Caesar's singing the words "you name it" sparked the #UNameItChallenge online, which features people doing dances to the song.

Lonely man during holidays should reach out to others

DEAR ABBY: I became estranged from my family after I came out as gay. I am OK with it and don't really care anymore. The problem is, besides having no family, I have no friends either. I always had difficulty making friends. I'm an introvert and was bullied at school, so I found it more comfortable just hanging out at home by myself.

I have come to accept the absence of friends as my reality. I try to do fun things by myself, like seeing movies and eating out at restaurants, but the holiday season is hard to bear. Most people look forward to it, but I dread this time of year. It only makes me more aware of how alone and lonely I am.

I am too embarrassed to go out by myself during the holidays because most people are out with family and friends. Can you suggest some things I could do for the holidays instead of staying home and watching TV by myself?

HOLIDAY HURTING IN THE EAST

DEAR HOLIDAY HURTING: I may be able to solve two of your problems at the same time. Start calling some of the charitable organizations in your area and ask if they can use an extra pair of hands during the holiday season. Serving food at a homeless shelter or food pantry and delivering meals to shut-ins come to mind.

A sure cure for the blues is to reach out and do something for someone who needs a helping hand. If you try it, you may meet like-minded people and start some friendships.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 37 years is a perfectionist. I am not. Her father used to call her "Little Miss Perfect." I try to help around the house, but she always comes afterward to "correct" my mistakes and make things "perfect." I am not sloppy about my work—just not up to her standards.

Two examples: I make the bed; she remakes it. I can't even mow the grass correctly because she likes diagonal cuttings and I cut parallel to the street. After one day, there's no difference. As a result, I have given up helping.

This doesn't bother her one bit; she gladly does all the work. Further, she's busy ALL day. We never have a chance to talk. When we do, it is always trivial: the weather, our schedule or her job at work.

I am retired and find this disconcerting. When I try my hobbies, she's all over me, so I quit them. Most men would trade places in an instant, but I'm just trying to figure out how to live with her and myself. I try to golf a lot.

UNHAPPY HUBBY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR UNHAPPY HUBBY: Has it occurred to you that your wife may suffer from OCD, and that's the reason everything has to be "perfect"? It appears the only thing that isn't perfect is your marriage.

Perhaps it's time you talked to her about how her obsession with perfection makes you feel—because from where I sit, it comes across as a passive-aggressive putdown. Unless she's willing to recognize that what she's doing isn't healthy for your marriage and consider professional help, nothing will change.

In the meantime, consider more hobbies you can do on your own or with friends—hiking, hunting, skiing, fishing, etc.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CALVIN HAS MYSTERIOUSLY SHRUNK TO THE SIZE OF AN INSECT!
HIS ONLY HOPE IS TO CALL FOR HELP! PUSHING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, CALVIN DIALS THE GIGANTIC TELEPHONE!
DEF 3 ABC 2
IT'S RINGING! HE RUNS TO THE MOUTHPIECE! WILL ANYONE BE ABLE TO HEAR HIM??
BZZ BZ! BZZZZ! BZZ BZZ! BZZZ BZ!
CALVIN, THIS HAD BETTER NOT BE YOU.
12-12
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW GOOD YOU'VE BEEN LATELY
THANK YOU
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE SANTA'S WATCHING, HUH?
YES
THIS IS REALLY KILLING YOU, ISN'T IT?
IT'S EXCRUCIATING
JIM DAVIS 12-12
www.facebook.com/garfield
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS, HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS...
ADAM!
SNAP
I LOVE CHRISTMAS MUSIC, TOO, BUT YOU'VE BEEN SINGING FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT.
CAN WE JUST... HAVE A LITTLE BREAK?
LITTLE TIP. DON'T CALL YOUR MOM "SCROOGE" WHEN SHE'S MAKING CHRISTMAS COOKIES.
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12-12
WARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE, BANANA CREAM PIE, CARAMEL CUPCAKES...
DON'T WE HAVE ANY HEALTHY SNACKS?
HAVE YOU CHECKED THE BOTTOM SHELF?
HERE WE GO... TRIPLE FUDGE BROWNIES WITH GRANOLA SPRINKLES
AND THERE'S MORE BEER DOWNSTAIRS
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12/12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

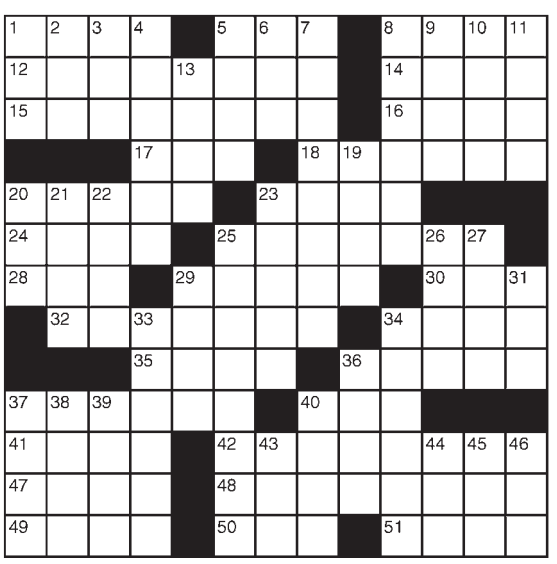
ACROSS
1 Hunger indicator
5 Scale member
8 Farrow and Hamm
12 Starbucks order
14 Village People hit
15 Baptize
16 Sharp tooth
17 Vinyl records
18 Garden dwarfs
20 Like crazy
23 "Scram!"
24 Messes up
25 Abbreviate
28 Teeny
29 Knightley of "Atonement"
30 Gift from Santa
32 Add sugar to
34 Poolroom supply
35 Reply to "Shall we?"
36 Whale food
37 Goldberg on "The View"
40 — tizzy
41 Pile
42 Seldom
47 Museo display
48 Tinsel-like
49 Pitch
50 Capitol Hill VIP
51 Wise one

DOWN
1 Chest muscle
2 Fireplace residue
3 "Fresh Air" airer
4 Barbecues
5 Bygone jets
6 Sugary suffix
7 Texas bovine
8 "Yeah, sure!"
9 Mosque bigwig
10 Teen's woe
11 Droops
13 Catch sight of
19 Asta's mistress
20 Kitten's cry
21 War god
22 Sketched
23 Recoils (with "away")
25 Microwave choices
26 Needle case
27 Yuletide tune
29 Retain
31 Designer monogram
33 Runs off to wed
34 Arts companion
36 Shoelace snarl
37 "Huh?"
38 Medal earner
39 Feedbag fill
40 "Don't rub —!"
43 Flamenco cheer
44 Chai, e.g.
45 Work unit
46 "Science Guy" Bill

Solution time: 28 mins.

M	A	C		M	A	W	S		A	P	S	E
M	O	L		E	L	I	A		R	H	E	A
E	L	A	P	S	I	N	G		M	E	N	S
			P	E	A	T			B	A	W	D	Y
W	A	T	T	S		S	W	A	N			
E	T	R	E		I	N	A	J	I	F	F	Y
P	T	A		G	O	U	D	A		L	I	E
T	A	P	D	A	N	C	E		M	A	R	A
			R	I	S	K		P	I	P	E	R
C	L	O	U	T			C	O	N	J		
R	A	V	I		S	L	A	P	D	A	S	H
I	C	E	D		G	O	N	E		C	H	E
B	E	N	S		T	O	E	S		K	E	Y

Friday's answer 12 - 12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mayim Bialik, 41; Madchen Amick, 46; Jennifer Connelly, 46.

Happy Birthday: Be strong and stay focused. Don't let someone else's convoluted ideas get in your way or slow you down. Figure out what you believe in and where you see yourself a year from now. Start small and stay committed to the truth, and you will be pleased with the directions your life will move in. Change begins within. Your numbers are 6, 17, 20, 24, 31, 35, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't worry so much about what others do or say when what's important is how you respond to situations. Discipline, knowledge and taking the time to think matters through will establish you as a leader. Love and romance are featured. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your desire to help will be for naught if you let yourself be misled by fabrications. Ask questions and find out exactly what you are getting into before you make a commitment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): As forthright as you might be, don't expect the same in return. Someone will be more intent on getting something from you than giving something to you. Make your own gains a priority and put positive personal changes into play. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look beyond what you see initially, and discover alternatives that can help you make better choices regarding your work, status or reputation. Partnerships will take an unexpected turn due to a last-minute change or sudden reversal. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Aim for balance, integrity and working hard to make your personal and professional relationships better. Offer affection, kind gestures and incentives that will encourage those you care about to help you meet your goals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotional matters will surface if you allow someone to put demands on you or if you take on too many responsibilities. Use your intelligence and discuss options that allow you to delegate what you don't have time to do. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't question authority figures. It's best to listen carefully and consider the best angle to take without making a fuss. Going under the radar will help you reach your goals with the least amount of interference. Physical improvements will turn out well. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A unique but feasible plan to improve your home and domestic environment is encouraged. It's OK to be different, but only if you can also keep the peace with anyone who will be affected by your plans. Ask for approval first. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take whatever you want to pursue one step further. Don't let controversy or opposition deter you from reaching out and making your point clear. Take the logical next step and be prepared to go the distance. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your intuition will keep you grounded when emotional situations spin out of control. Listen to your inner voice and you will avoid a rash decision that will take days to undo. Peer pressure should not be allowed to sway you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Dig in and get things done and your gestures will reflect what you are capable of doing and set you up for a better position within your workplace or peer group. Personal and physical updates will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't venture too far off your normal routine. Emotional miscues will result in sending the wrong message to someone who feels entitled to speak on your behalf. Focus on making personal changes and figuring out how you can best move forward. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are pointed, talented and dedicated. You are adaptable and free-spirited.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		9	7	1		6	
3		5				2		9
	7						1	
1			7		8			5
6				1				8
2			3		9			1
	2						5	
5		3				1		7
	4		5	9	6		8	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	4	9	1	3	8	5	6
6	5	3	4	7	8	2	9	1
1	8	9	2	5	6	3	7	4
7	4	8	1	9	2	5	6	3
3	6	2	8	4	5	7	1	9
9	1	5	3	6	7	4	2	8
8	9	7	6	2	4	1	3	5
5	3	6	7	8	1	9	4	2
4	2	1	5	3	9	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DON'T BE PERSNICKETY Solution: 8 letters

B	S	T	S	N	O	O	T	Y	S	O	O	H	C	V
I	S	T	Y	P	A	I	E	S	N	E	T	N	I	O
G	U	N	S	D	A	R	Y	K	C	I	N	I	F	C
H	O	A	S	R	R	R	R	O	N	I	M	C	I	A
E	I	T	I	U	S	E	T	O	P	E	N	K	C	L
A	D	I	R	S	O	U	I	I	W	Ⓨ	Ⓖ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	A
D	I	B	P	B	S	I	O	L	C	I	N	A	P	I
E	T	R	O	A	Y	T	L	L	A	U	L	E	S	C
D	S	O	R	S	C	K	E	I	O	V	L	H	C	I
E	A	X	W	I	S	E	C	R	C	V	A	A	A	F
T	F	E	R	E	P	Y	H	I	N	R	I	C	R	R
A	U	T	S	N	O	I	N	I	P	O	E	R	E	E
I	S	S	U	O	I	T	N	E	T	E	R	P	F	P
L	S	E	L	B	A	N	O	S	A	E	R	N	U	U
S	Y	K	E	E	H	C	R	I	T	I	C	A	L	S

© 2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/12

Absurd, Bigheaded, Bossy, Careful, Cavalier, Cheeky, Choosy, Critical, Details, Edgy, Exorbitant, Fastidious, Finicky, Frivolous, Fussy, Hyper, Intense, Minor, Narrow, Open, Opinions, Panic, Particular, Picky, Pretentious, Prissy, Sharp, Snooty, Specific, Stern, Strict, Supercilious, Superficial, Unreasonable, Vocal, Wise

Last Friday's Answer: Macintosh

Purchase **WONDERWORD** books in time for the holidays! Visit WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Reality check

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Saipan Tribune, Inc.
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Advertising Sales Agent
Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 19, 2016.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-SAR-057

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 18, 2017 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION FACILITY IN MARPI"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCURMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECTS ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-SAR-058

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 04, 2017 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF A MID SIZE PICK UP TRUCK WITH TOWING PACKAGE FOR THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

EMPLOYMENT

1 Carpenter , 1 Welder, minimum wage. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call (670)288-6903/04 look for Robert.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?

You're looking at it!

Saipan Tribune
235-6397

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting beginning on **Friday, December 16, 2106, at 10:00 a.m.** The meetings will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
1. October 12, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
2. October 20, 2016 Special Board Meeting
E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
A. Executive Director
1. Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
2. Update on EPA Grant Projects

B. Chief Financial Officer
1. Update on Desalination Report

C. Legal Counsel

IV. Executive Session***
1. Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel and Operation Matters

V. Board Reports Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/ New Business
1. Personnel Committee
2. Operation Committee

VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

JWS, AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION INC.

We are looking for a dynamic person to fill a position as

Accounting Supervisor
for an established company with offices in Guam and Saipan.
Position is in Saipan, CNMI.

General Requirements
The Accounting Supervisor is responsible to assist the CFO in all areas of financial operations. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or equivalent. Must also have 5+ yrs supervisory experience.

Please send resume to jwssaipan@pticom.com or fax to (670) 235-5573.

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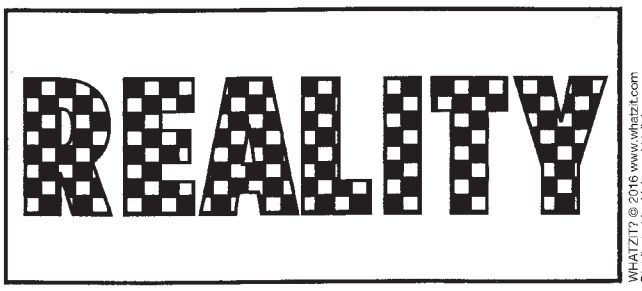
www.guam.wish.org

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

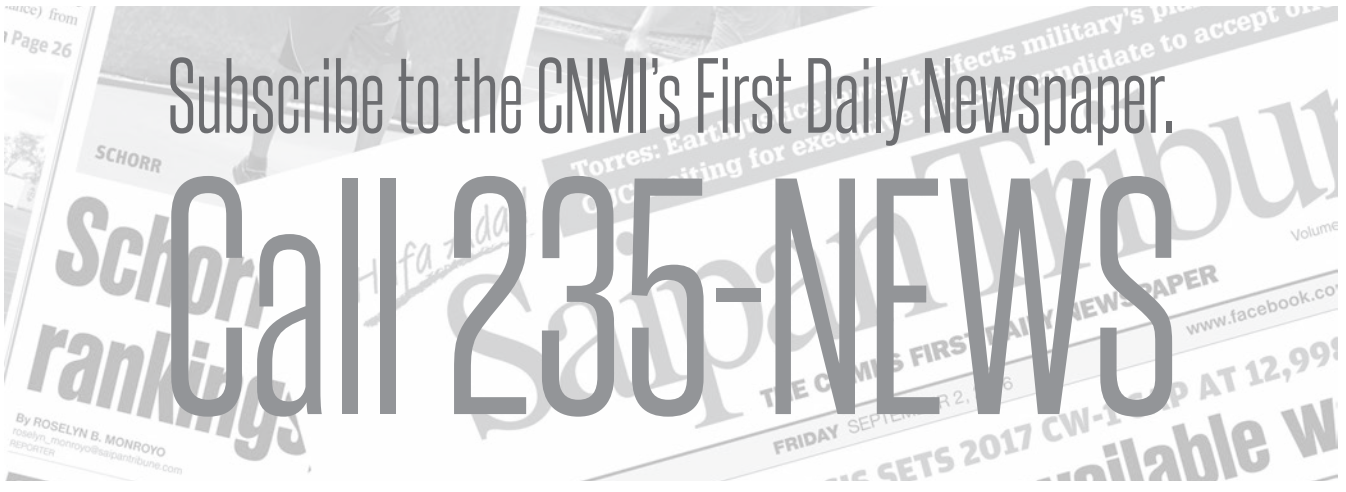
"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

WHATZIT? ™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-012
ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing building structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of a new well building, chlorination building, booster pump building, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 1st 2017.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The Bid Documents may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one Bid Documents package set. The Bid Documents consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **December 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A Site Visit of the CUC Rota Water facilities will be scheduled by CUC Rota thereafter. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) Original and Five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a **sealed envelope** marked "CUC-IFB-17-012 –Rota Water Supply Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Travis Spaeth, CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Must be knowledgeable on Property Management System (PMS) – Opera. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisory experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE CUISINE
Minimum of three (3) years of relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE (CHINESE CUISINE)
Minimum of three (3) years of experience in overseeing the production of Chinese cuisine for hotels, restaurants or banquets. Must have strong knowledge of Chinese cuisine, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(11) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) COOK (KOREAN CUISINE)
Must have at least a minimum of two (2) years of related experience with Korean cuisine and ingredients. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be knowledgeable on Property Management System (PMS) – Opera. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent Leadership with written and oral communication skills is necessary. Must have the ability to manage all aspects of the Front Office operations, including a Guest Relation, Call Center, and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to formulate Front Office Budget, monitor Profit and Loss. Must have the ability to set an upsell program and work as part of the Yield Management team in maximize revenue for the hotel. Must have computer knowledge on as Property Management System (PMS) - Opera. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN
Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3)years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) RESERVATIONS CLERK
Minimum of six (6) months working experience in a hotel. Must be able to use hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft office (Word / Excel). Must be able to speak, read and write in English and either Korean, Russian, Chinese or Japanese language is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR – KOREAN MARKET
Minimum of one (1) year of hospitality/hotel or travel agent sales experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading and writing the English and Korean languages and be proficient with the use of MS Office. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) SALES ASSOCIATE- Casual Employee
Applicants must have customer service experience and be able to work flexible hours. Bilingual in Japanese, Korean or Russian a plus. Previous Retail experience preferred, but we are willing to train. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) THAI COOK
Minimum of two (2) years work experience in preparing Thai and Asian cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, December 15th, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Chiefs hold off Raiders 21-13 to take control of AFC West

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tyreek Hill didn't know what to do when he started hearing thousands of people in Arrowhead Stadium chanting his name, even as he stood all alone on the frozen turf waiting for the punt.

"Just give them what they want, I guess," Hill thought to himself.

So he did, the rookie speedster taking the punt back 78-yards for a game-changing touchdown. It followed shortly after he had hauled in a 36-yard touchdown grab, spurring Kansas City to a 21-13 victory over the Oakland Raiders on a frosty Thursday night and into control of the AFC West.

"It gave me chills on the sideline," said Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith, who had 261 yards passing with a touchdown and an interception. "The whole stadium is chanting his name and he answers - that was one of the coolest things I've seen, for sure."

The Chiefs (10-3) and Raiders (10-3), longtime and bitter rivals, are now tied atop the division, but Kansas City has the tiebreaker by virtue of two head-to-head wins this season.

"This was as big as it gets for a regular-season game," Smith said. "We don't get caught up in all the must-win stuff, that's not how we operate, but we knew the stakes for sure."

Charcandrick West added a touchdown run and Travis Kelce had five catches for 101 yards as the Chiefs returned from a back-to-back road wins to beat Oakland for the seventh time in eight meetings.

It came at a big cost, though: The Chiefs lost Derrick Johnson for the rest of the season after the star linebacker ruptured his left Achilles just before halftime.

"I felt a little bit of a letdown when it happened," Chiefs coach Andy Reid acknowledged, "but the last thing D.J. would have wanted was a letdown."

Derek Carr was just 17 of 41 for 117 yards passing for Oakland, but the ugly line wasn't entirely his fault. Seth Roberts dropped just about everything thrown at him, Amari Cooper couldn't adjust to a long throw for a would-be touchdown early in the fourth quarter, and several more passes were dropped to the rock-hard turf of Arrowhead Stadium on a night when wind chills approached single digits.

Latavius Murry led the Raiders with 103 yards rushing and a touchdown.

AP

Kansas City Chiefs defensive back Keith McGill II (39) nearly intercepts a pass intended for Oakland Raiders wide receiver Amari Cooper (89) during the first half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo., Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016.

"I liked our effort, just didn't like the execution," said Jack Del Rio, who remained winless in four tries against Kansas City as the Raiders' coach. "In all three phases we came up a little short."

That includes the way they defended Hill, one of the game's bright young stars.

He scorched the Raiders for a 36-yard TD reception before bringing his punt back, in the process becoming the first rookie since Gale Sayers in 1965 with touchdowns on the ground, through the air and on punt and kickoff returns in a single season.

"I didn't know that," he said. "I mean, that's great, but I'm not the only one on that field doing it. Without those guys blocking for me, and Alex throwing me the rock, none of that stuff would happen."

It was still 21-3 when Johnson went down, and his injury seemed to briefly deflate the Kansas City defense. Oakland proceeded to march 92 yards for its lone touchdown just before halftime.

But the Raiders kept coming up empty with their chances in the second half.

Smith threw a pick on the second play of the third quarter, but Oakland had to settle for a field goal. And when Smith was strip-sacked by Khalil Mack on the next play, the Raiders again had to try a field goal - only this time, holder Marquette King couldn't get the snap down.

The Raiders' last chance came with about two minutes left, when a questionable pass interference penalty and a fourth-and-4 conversion got them deep into Kansas City territory. But after a false start on fourth-and-1, Carr's pass toward the end zone was batted incomplete.

The Chiefs went on to pick up the first down they needed to put the game away.

"It was definitely a bad night. There's no getting around that," Carr said. "I hate to have the bad night come on this one, right? Out of all the games that we've had. Obviously, we didn't do enough."

MACK DADDY

Mack had a strip-sack for the third straight game, and a sack in his eighth straight dating to the Raiders' loss to Kansas City in October. That matches Lance Johnstone for the longest streak in franchise history since sacks became official in 1982.

INJURIES

Johnson appeared to know he had ruptured his Achilles the moment he went down. He ruptured his other Achilles in 2014 and missed the remainder of that season. ... Defensive tackle Rakeem Nunez-Roches left with back spasms and did not return.

Raiders offensive lineman Kelechi Osemele was a late scratch with an illness that sent him to the hospital, though Del Rio said he'll be able to travel home with the team. Safety Karl Joseph was inactive with a toe injury and defensive tackle Stacy McGee was sidelined by an ankle injury.

CATCHING KELCE

Kelce has had at least 100 yards receiving in four straight games, matching the franchise record set by Tony Gonzalez. The only tight end with such a streak is Jimmy Graham, who has done it twice.

NFL BRIEFS

OBJ fined for verbal abuse of official on the field

NEW YORK (AP)—Odell Beckham Jr. was fined $12,154 for verbal abuse/excessive profanity toward an official following the Giants' 24-14 loss at Pittsburgh last weekend. The fine wasn't related to Beckham's postgame comments to reporters when he described an unsettling exchange with one official, complained about several non-calls and suggested referee Terry McAulay's crew shouldn't work any more Giants games. It was the same crew that worked New York's game against Carolina last season in which Beckham and then-Panthers cornerback Josh Norman repeatedly drew flags for their confrontations. Three Jets players were each fined for unnecessary roughness during a 41-10 loss to Indianapolis. Cornerback Buster Skrine, D-lineman Sheldon Richardson and right tackle Breno Giancomini were all docked $9,115. Oakland punter Marquette King was fined $12,154 for picking up an official's flag and using it as a prop after being roughed by the Bills and Raiders receiver Michael Crabtree was docked the same amount for taunting.

AP source: Aldon Smith makes reinstatement case to Goodell

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—Suspended Oakland Raiders pass rusher Aldon Smith has met with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in hopes of being reinstated. A person with knowledge of the meeting says Smith sat down with the commissioner and other league staff Friday to make his case to be allowed back on the field following his yearlong suspension for violating rules on substance abuse. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the reinstatement process is confidential. There is no timeline for when or if Smith will be reinstated. Smith was suspended in November 2015 for at least one year. He was eligible to be reinstated Nov. 17 an first met with Goodell on Friday. NFL Media first reported the meeting.

Panthers' Kuechly questionable with concussion vs. Chargers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Panthers coach Ron Rivera says three-time All-Pro middle linebacker Luke Kuechly will play against the San Diego Chargers on Sunday if he's cleared from the NFL's concussion protocol. The NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2013 has missed the last two games with a concussion. Kuechly is listed as questionable and Rivera says he hopes he can play, saying "anytime you got your leader out there, it is a doggone good thing." Defensive end Charles Johnson (hamstring), linebacker David Mayo (concussion) and tackle Daryl Williams (ankle) are out against the Chargers. Defensive end Mario Addison (foot), safety Kurt Coleman (concussion) and cornerback Daryl Worley (concussion) are questionable. The Panthers also made a roster move, signing linebacker Ben Jacobs and releasing cornerback Robert McClain.

NFL to play 4 regular-season games in London next year

LONDON (AP)—The NFL will stage four regular-season games in London next year. Teams and venues for the four games will be announced on Tuesday. The NFL started playing regular-season games in London in 2007, and has recently played three games per season in the British capital. The league has never before played four games in one season in London. Most of the games have been played at Wembley Stadium, but one was played at Twickenham this season. "We continue to be incredibly excited by the passion and love for the NFL shown by our millions of UK fans," said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. "London is an amazing city. We have had tremendous support from our fans, from Mayor Khan and other government leaders and business partners, and we are looking forward to taking the next step in the UK by playing four games in London next season." Khan called London the international home of the NFL. "London staging a fourth NFL game is fantastic news, not only for the millions of sports fans who get to enjoy our iconic stadiums, but also because it confirms our status as the go-to choice for hosting the world's biggest sporting events," Khan said. The NFL also could play an international series game in Mexico again next year after the Texans-Raiders matchup in Azteca Stadium was a success in November.

James moves into 9th on scoring list as Cavs top Heat

CLEVELAND (AP)—Another game, another milestone for LeBron James.

The four-time MVP scored 27 points to move into ninth place on the NBA scoring list, and the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Miami Heat 114-84 on Friday night.

James passed Elvin Hayes on a driving layup with 6:58 remaining and has 27,315 career points. The Cavs star was removed about a minute later and received a loud ovation from the Cleveland crowd.

"Whenever you're great, you're going to move up a lot of lists," Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said. "It's a tribute to his hard work and his dedication."

James moved past Hakeem Olajuwon earlier and could pass Moses Malone (27,409) for eighth place in the next few games.

"Anytime I'm mentioned with the other greats, it's very surreal and very humbling," James said.

Kevin Love, a game-time decision because of back spasms, scored a team-high 28 points and had 15 rebounds after missing the morning shootaround.

Kyrie Irving added 23 points for the Cavs, who have won three straight after losing three in a row.

Derrick Williams scored 17 to lead the short-handed Heat, who dressed only eight players and have lost four straight.

Miami center Hassan Whiteside, who spent most of the third quarter on the bench, had eight points and 12 rebounds in 28 minutes. Whiteside entered averaging 17.6 points and 14.7 rebounds.

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra was clearly displeased with his center's effort.

"This league is for competitors only," Spoelstra said. "I just wanted more energy, more life defending the pick-and-roll. It has nothing to do with how many touches (you get)."

"I really don't know what I've got to do, man," Whiteside said. "I really don't know. I'm coming out here playing as hard as I can, putting up what I can."

Cleveland went ahead for good late in the first quarter and took its biggest lead of the half, 57-46, on Irving's 3-pointer as the second quarter was winding down.

The Cavaliers took command soon after halftime. Irving hit another 3 and James scored on a breakaway dunk as Cleveland built a 68-50 lead.

James had eight assists and is four away from becoming the 16th player in NBA history to compile 7,000 in his career—and the first frontcourt player to reach the milestone.

James isn't sure if he will play when Cleveland hosts Charlotte on Saturday night.

"As far as health-wise, I'm able to go, but Coach and the training staff have some type of program about me and I'll go with whatever they say," he said.

James rested at Indiana on Nov. 16, the only game he's missed this season, also the second of a back-to-back set.

Cavaliers guard J.R. Smith missed his second straight game because of a hyperextended left knee

The Heat began an unusual reunion tour by facing James, who helped Miami win two NBA titles in his four seasons with the team. The trip will continue Saturday when they play in Chicago against Dwyane Wade, who signed with the Bulls in the offseason.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Miami Heat's Josh McRoberts (4) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, in Cleveland.

Rockets 102, Thunder 99

In Oklahoma City, James Harden scored 21 points, and the Houston Rockets overcame Russell Westbrook's seventh consecutive triple-double to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 102-99.

Harden also had 12 assists and nine rebounds to help the Rockets win their fifth straight. Houston withstood Harden's 6-for-23 shooting effort.

Westbrook finished with 27 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. He has the longest triple-double streak since Michael Jordan had seven straight in 1989. The most in a row is nine by Philadelphia's Wilt Chamberlain in March 1968.

It was Westbrook's 12th triple-double this season and the 49th of his career. He is the NBA's active leader in the category and ranks sixth overall.

The Thunder had won the previous six games during Westbrook's triple-double binge.

Raptors 101, Celtics 94

In Boston, Kyle Lowry scored 21 of his season-high 34 points in the second half for Toronto.

Toronto erased an eight-point halftime deficit and led by as many as 11 in the fourth quarter. Boston pulled within four in the final minute, but Al Horford fouled Lowry on a 3-point attempt with 30 seconds to play. Lowry made all three free throws to help close out the victory.

DeMar DeRozan added 24 points, and Norman Powell had 20.

Horford and Avery Bradley each had 19 points to lead Boston. Celtics point guard Isaiah Thomas sat out his second straight game with a strained right groin.

Pistons 117, Timberwolves 90

In Minneapolis, Andre Drummond had 22 points and 22 rebounds for his second straight 20-20 game and Detroit cruised past Minnesota.

Marcus Morris had 15 points and seven rebounds and the Pistons had their way with Minnesota's struggling defense, hitting 14 of 29 3-pointers.

Andrew Wiggins scored 16 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Wolves. They have lost seven of their last eight games.

Mavericks 111, Pacers 103

In Dallas, Wesley Matthews matched a season high with 26 points, Harrison Barnes had 25 and Dallas beat Indiana for just its third win in 15 games.

Two nights after a listless second half in a 31-point home loss to Sacramento prompted a team meeting, the Mavericks started the third quarter with a 10-2 run that gave them a double-digit lead.

Matthews outscored the Pacers by himself during a 32-11 spurt that turned a 50-42 deficit into a 74-61 lead. The shooting guard had 16 points during the run, capped by a 3-pointer.

Paul George had 22 points for the Pacers.

Hawks 114, Bucks 110

In Milwaukee, Dennis Schroder scored a career-high 33 points and Atlanta rallied from 20 down in the second half to beat Milwaukee.

Paul Millsap added 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 18 points. The Hawks ended a seven-game losing streak Wednesday night with a win over Miami.

Jabari Parker scored 27 points for Milwaukee.

Hornets 109, Magic 88

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Nic Batum and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist each had 16 points, and Charlotte routed Orlando for its third straight victory.

Kemba Walker had 15 points in limited action, and Ramon Sessions and Jeremy Lamb each scored 12 off the bench. Batum missed out on a chance at a triple-double because Charlotte's starters didn't play in the fourth quarter with the game out of hand. He had nine rebounds and seven assists.

Evan Fournier had 14 points for Orlando.

Suns 119, Lakers 115

In Los Angeles, Eric Bledsoe had 30 points and nine assists, Leandro Barbosa added 21 points and Phoenix ended its three-game losing streak with a victory over slumping Los Angeles.

Devin Booker had 15 points before fouling out for the Suns, who hit a season-high 13 3-pointers and withstood a late rally by the short-handed Lakers.

Lou Williams hit six 3-pointers and scored 35 points in another monster game off the bench for the Lakers, who have lost five straight after a promising start to their first season since Kobe Bryant retired.

Los Angeles has faltered during a busy portion of its December schedule while playing without four injured regulars: D'Angelo Russell, Nick Young, Tarik Black and Jose Calderon.

Alex Len had 14 points and 13 rebounds, but the Suns blew most of an 18-point lead in the second half. Phoenix hung on for just its seventh victory of the season after losing five of its previous six.

Knicks 103, Kings 100

In Sacramento, California, Carmelo Anthony scored 33 points, including two free throws with 14.8 seconds remaining, and New York held on to beat Sacramento for its fifth victory in six games.

Kristaps Porzingis added 17 points and 10 rebounds for New York. Brandon Jennings scored 13 in place of injured Derrick Rose, and the Knicks beat the Kings for the second time in six days.

The Kings missed multiple shots in the waning moments, including an uncontested driving layup by DeMarcus Cousins with 22 seconds left that would have given Sacramento the lead.

Rudy Gay missed a potential tying 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds remaining, and Cousins also missed a desperation heave from beyond midcourt that hit the rim at the buzzer.

Cousins finished with 28 points, 11 rebounds and six assists.

Lawsuit: NBA players teamed up in couple's nightclub assault

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for a couple who claim Sacramento Kings players Matt Barnes and DeMarcus Cousins assaulted them at a nightclub said Thursday they'll rely on videotapes, medical reports and the testimony of witnesses to prove they were attacked.

The lawyer, Michael S. Lamonsoff, spoke at a news conference as the couple, Jasmine Besiso and Myrone Powell, held hands nearby a day after their federal lawsuit alleged Barnes choked and knocked Besiso unconscious before both players attacked Powell with punches and kicks inside a Manhattan nightclub on Monday.

Lamonsoff said Barnes attacked Besiso, a hairstylist, after trying to choke another woman earlier in the night. He said he hopes the other woman comes forward to authorities. He said Besiso and Powell didn't know the players before the altercation.

He said the players were "using their celebrity status and vast resources to distort the truth."

In an Instagram post Monday, Barnes said: "There's always two sides to a story .. The side the media consistently tries to paint of me .... And what actually happened! Don't believe everything you read."

Attorney Alex Spiro, representing both players, said, "We don't believe a crime was committed, and we're continuing to cooperate with the authorities."

Spiro declined to comment on the lawsuit or on whether his clients had spoken to police or prosecutors. Police said earlier in the week they were looking to speak with Barnes, who had left the nightclub with Cousins before police arrived.

Lamonsoff did not specify how much money he seeks from the civil lawsuit.

Fowler gets $82.5 million, 5-year deal with Cardinals

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Dexter Fowler is headed from the World Series champions to their biggest rival.

After helping the Chicago Cubs end their long championship drought, he finalized an $82.5 million, five-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals on Friday. Fowler fills the last big hole left in the Cardinals lineup after moves made earlier in the offseason to shore up the bullpen.

"It was an honor just to be considered to be in the Cardinals organization," said Fowler, who will wear No. 25 in honor of his mentor, Barry Bonds, because his usual 24 is retired by the Cardinals.

"You play against the Cardinals, I've been playing against them for eight years now," Fowler said, "and they always come out fighting. Always fighting. And then being with a rival, being the Cubs however many times we play them a year, you see them and—it's always good a winning team wants you."

AP

St. Louis Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak, right, watches as Dexter Fowler puts a Cardinals jersey during a baseball news conference announcing the signing of the free agent center fielder Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, in St. Louis.

Fowler was also a free agent a year ago, when he spurned a $33 million, three-year offer from Baltimore, which refused to offer an opt out after one year. He signed a $13 million, one-year deal with the Chicago Cub and hit .276 with 13 homers and a career-best .393 on-base percentage that landed him in his first All-Star Game. He had a pair of home runs in helping the Cubs win their first World Series title in 108 years.

"Playing over there, and playing against the Cardinals, you see them and you saw that they weren't far away," Fowler said. "Obviously they beat up on us, we beat up on them. It was almost even. It was one day or another. I can't put my finger on one thing or another, but we're definitely close."

His new deal calls for a $10 million signing bonus, payable in $1 million installments each July 1 and Oct. 1 for the next five years, and annual salaries of $14.5 million.

He gets a full no-trade provision, $50,000 bonuses for making the All-Star Game and winning a Gold Glove, a $25,000 bonus for a Silver Slugger, $100,000 for League Championship Series MVP and $150,000 for World Series MVP. He would get $250,000 for NL MVP, $150,000 for finishing second in voting and $100,000 for third through fifth. He would get $50,000 for Division Series MVP if the award is created.

Hell of the Marianas sees record turnout

The 10th Annual Hell of the Marianas saw over 190 participants, pro and novice from around the world, compete in the 100km bike race. With grueling climbs and speedy down hills, this course was one of the most challenging yet.

"We couldn't have done it without all our amazing sponsors as well as the folks over at DPS, the Fire and EMS department, Parks and Recreation, DPW, and of course, GPPC for all the help with the Capital Hill road project and keeping our riders safe and sound! We had an amazing race," said Vince Seman, president of the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

The Platinum sponsors for this event were DFS Saipan, Gatorade, TSL Foundation, and Triple J, Saipan. Gold sponsors were Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Gold's Gym, and Island Training Solutions. Silver sponsors as Power 99 and bronze sponsors were Philippine Airlines, Saipan Bike Pro, Pacific Island Club, Taro Sue, Bridge Capital, Mango Resort, Hawaiian Rock Products, and Let's Go! Saipan.

First place winner for the men's category was Philippine rider John Paul Morales, second place was Japan's Makoto Morimoto, and third was the Philippines' Mark John Galedo. First place for the female's category was Mieko Carey from Guam. Second and third were Manami Iljima and Chika Fukumoto, both from Japan. ***(PR)***

JR.

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Richard Steele in the finals, 7-6 (6), 6-4. Kang did not drop a single set en route to his title victory in the age group. He earlier swept Jiwoong Kwon, 6-1, 6-1, and then dominated No. 4 seed Seung Won Lee in the semifinals, 6-0, 6-0, to arrange a championship duel against Steele.

Kang also faced Steele in the doubles with the former teaming up with Anthony Gregoire and the latter partnering with Rintaro Miyawaki. The eventual singles champion and Gregoire went on to outlast Miyawaki and Gregoire in the round-robin doubles tournament, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 14-12, to boost their title bid. Kang and Gregoire downed two more pairs—Jae Yun and Min Gi Jung, 6-0, 6-2, and Andrew Chung and Brandon Lee, 6-1, 6-3—to rule the division.

In the girls U12 singles division, Camacho triumphed against two other players. She outclassed J.C. Ferrer, 7-5, 6-3, and eased past Helen Kim, 6-0, 6-3, to win her first singles championship.

Meanwhile, the TanHoldings tournament was the first event under Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation's calendar of events for 2016-2017.

Up next for the CNMI junior players is an off-island ITF tournament in Australia in January. A couple of Commonwealth players (names to be announced later) were selected to join the ITF Touring Team and compete in Albury from Jan. 3 to 9.

Then in February, NMITA will host the White Coconut Classic, which will also be opened to adults players that will allowed to play in the unique mixed-up doubles event. The White Coconut Classic will be played in two weekends with Week 1 set from Feb. 11 to 12 and Week 2 from Feb. 18 to 20.

Other local and international/regional events under the NMITA calendar are as follows: PIC Tennis Championships in March; CNMI Junior Tennis Championships in April; Guam ITF in May, ITF Northern Marianas Junior Championships in May; ITF New Caledonia in June, ITF North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam in June; ITF South Pacific Open Junior Championships and ITF Oceania Open Junior Championships in Fiji in June; and ITF Oceania Closed Junior Championships and ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

WUSSTIG

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to the canvas. Once on top, he unleashed a couple of body shots before Wusstig managed to get out and lifted Iakopo for the slam.

Now on the favorable position, it was Wusstig's turn to pepper Iakopo with punches to the body and face. Iakopo then tried to get up and escape from Wusstig's hold, but not without sustaining a cut to his nose bridge.

With both fighters now standing, they had a brief exchange before Wusstig caught Iakopo anew and slammed him hard on the canvas again. They grappled for a while and just when Iakopo seemed to get out of trouble, Wusstig went to the former's back and flipped the Trench Tech fighter, choking him from behind. Iakopo tapped out and the third man on the ring—Frank "The Crank" Camacho—stepped in and separated the two fighters.

With the victory, Wusstig improved his win-loss record to 6-10, while Iakopo dropped to a 1-1 mark.

Meanwhile, in the semi main event, Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama recorded a TKO victory against Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan at the 3:10 mark of Round 3 of their five-round bout.

Fighting out of Ground Fu-Guam, but originally from Rota, Lizama went for a cross punch that floored Sablan for the second time. Lizama then followed Sablan, hoping to finish him off, but after one more strike, referee Mike Ulloa pulled the plug on the Team Zalaka bet.

Blood was flowing from Sablan's face due to the nasty cut on top of his left eyebrow. He got it from the flurry of punches Lizama unloaded in the first round. Sablan also connected on a couple and used his long legs to make some kicks, however, Lizama's quick hands punished the former more. A combination brought Sablan down the canvas early in the second round. Sablan got up and countered with a kick on Lizama's face, but the Rota-born fighter retaliated with more solid punches to the former's body and face.

By the end of the second round, Sablan seemed gassed out and bleeding, while Lizama still had a lot left on his tank and kept hitting his foe until he landed the winning punch.

The victory over Sablan was Lizama's second in a row after an impressive debut in Rites of Passage 20: Conquer in August this year. The Ground Fu-Guam standout also scored a TKO victory over Red Ants Academy's Jones Langu in the closing seconds of Round 1 of their featherweight bout in ROP 20.

CNMI

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the butterfly swim and timed in at 29.3 seconds. He eclipsed his seed time of 30.51 to place third behind Lao's Sergey Sihanouvong (28.84 seconds) and Palestine's Nabeel Abouhatoum (27.63 seconds) and defeat five other participants. In the 50m freestyle, the Mt. Carmel School student was only ranked fifth on Heat 4, but his 26.18 seconds was better than his seed time of 26.64 seconds. Villacrusis finished ahead of Niger swimmer Albarchir Mouctar (26.34 seconds).

In the women's 50m butterfly, De Jesus raced on Heat 1 and came in at second behind Macedonia's Anastasia Bogdanovski (29.48). The CNMI swimmer clock logged 32.65 seconds to break her entry time of 32.75 seconds and prevail over five other swimmers.

CNMI coach Jacoby Winkfield is happy with the improvements the three swimmers have been showing since Day 1 of the tournament.

"Despite the jetlag and the cold, they swam great with several personal best times and a whole lot of experience is gained. From swimming in the same lanes as world class athletes, to packed warm-up and competition pools, with upwards of 400-500 swimmers in a 25-meter, 10-lane pool, it goes without saying that the CNMI team is gaining a wealth of experience," Winkfield said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Also joining the three CNMI swimmers and Winkfield in Canada are NMISF president John Hirsh and NMISF representative Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce. They attended the two-day World Aquatics Convention and Sports Medicine Conference.

"The convention presented tactical tools on how to implement swimming for all, sports integrity, and FINA initiatives, to name a few. While the sports medicine conference presented such issues as the latest in aquatic sports medicine, nutrition for the aquatic athlete, injury and illness prevention, and how to improve and enhance the aquatic athlete's performance. These lectures were presented by renowned physiologists, scientists, surgeons, and kinesiologists from around the world," Calobong-Pierce said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	7	.696	—
Boston	13	10	.565	3
New York	13	10	.565	3
Brooklyn	6	15	.286	9
Philadelphia	5	18	.217	11

Southeast Division

Charlotte	14	9	.609	—
Atlanta	12	12	.500	2 1/2
Orlando	10	14	.417	4 1/2
Washington	8	13	.381	5
Miami	7	16	.304	7

Central Division

Cleveland	16	5	.762	—
Chicago	12	10	.545	4 1/2
Milwaukee	11	10	.524	5
Detroit	13	12	.520	5
Indiana	11	12	.478	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	18	5	.783	—
Houston	16	7	.696	2
Memphis	16	8	.667	2 1/2
New Orleans	7	16	.304	11
Dallas	5	17	.227	12 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	14	9	.609	—
Utah	14	10	.583	1/2
Portland	12	12	.500	2 1/2
Denver	8	15	.348	6
Minnesota	6	17	.261	8

Pacific Division

Golden State	20	3	.870	—
L.A. Clippers	16	7	.696	4
L.A. Lakers	10	15	.400	11
Sacramento	8	14	.364	11 1/2
Phoenix	7	16	.304	13

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	319	207
Miami	7	5	0	.583	255	278
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	305	274
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	206	307

South

Houston	6	6	0	.500	207	257
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	311	311
Tennessee	6	6	0	.500	308	296
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	224	313

North

Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	256	207
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	290	236
Cincinnati	4	7	1	.375	245	259
Cleveland	0	12	0	.000	197	352

West

Kansas City	10	3	0	.769	302	255
Oakland	10	3	0	.769	358	320
Denver	8	4	0	.667	286	229
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	334	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

x-Dallas	11	1	0	.917	333	228
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	245	237
Washington	6	5	1	.542	303	295
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	268	245

South

Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	386	331
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	277	285
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	347	335
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	283	321

North

Detroit	8	4	0	.667	275	251
Green Bay	6	6	0	.500	295	302
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	233	209
Chicago	3	9	0	.250	204	270

West

Seattle	8	3	1	.708	264	194
Arizona	5	6	1	.458	276	251
Los Angeles	4	8	0	.333	180	262
San Francisco	1	11	0	.083	234	370

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

x-clinched playoff spot

8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lahunn Lam gets ready to serve during his boys U10 singles game against Nason Wessel in the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

Nason Wessel returns to Lahunn Lam.

Seung Jin Paik chases down the ball during his boys U14 singles game against Sean Lee.

Sean Lee uses both his hands for a return to Seung Jin Paik.

Jae Yun Jung pulls back for a return.

Rintaro Miyawaki makes a backhand return.

Maria Gregoire makes a return after a strong serve from Coume Kaga.

Coume Kaga, left, and Tania Tan celebrate after scoring a point on Malika Miyawaki and Conatsu Kaga.

Chiefs hold off Raiders 21-13 to take control of AFC West

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

James moves into 9th on scoring list as Cavs top Heat

PAGE 25

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig employs a rear-naked choke on Trench Tech's Stanley "The Raging Bull" Iakopo during Round 1 of their lightweight title fight in the Trench Warz 20: Full Throttle at the Marianas Business Plaza last Friday.

Wusstig stops Iakopo, keeps title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Guam's Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig spoiled the comeback fight of Trench Tech's Stanley "The Raging Bull" Iakopo after prevailing in their lightweight title fight in the Trench Warz 20: Full Trottle at the Marianas Business Plaza last Friday.

Wusstig earned a victory via submission at the 4:22 mark of Round 1 as he caught Iakopo with a rear-naked choke. The Spike 22 standout successfully defended the division title he won against compatriot and High Blood Pressure's Ryan "The Predator" Toves in April this year during the Rites of Passage 19: Seek and Destroy held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Iakopo, who returned to the octagon cage after taking a break for nearly nine years, lived up to his nickname as he attacked Wusstig right from the get-go and grabbed his foe's legs, trying to bring the fight down

See WUSSTIG on Page 26

CNMI swimmers get better in world champs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The three CNMI swimmers made significant improvements in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships as seen in their Top 3 finishes in the qualifying heats of last Friday's races in Windsor, Canada.

Salofi Welch came up second both in the 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly events, while Christian Villacrusis was ranked fifth and third in the same events, and Angel De Jesus placed second in the women's 50m butterfly during Day 4 of the competition at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Ontario.

In the 50m freestyle, Welch clocked in at 26.17 for a runner-up finish on Heat 3 behind Tajikistan's Olim Kurbanov (25.51 seconds). He defeated six other swimmers and broke his entry time of 27.21 seconds. In the 50m butterfly, the Commonwealth swimmer's 28.67 seconds surpassed his seed time of 35.91 seconds and was the second best on Heat 2. Cook Island's Temaruata Strickland (27.58 seconds) ruled the heat, which had eight swimmers.

Villarusis was on Heat 4 of

See CNMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce, Salofi Welch, Jacoby Winkfield, Christian Villacrusis, and Angel De Jesus pose for a photo while waiting for the opening ceremony for the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Ontario, Canada last week.

Jr. tennis players make Nov. honor rolls

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Daniel Kim serves during his and Anthony Gregoire's boys U12 doubles game against Rintaro Miyawaki and Richard Steele in the 8th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last month at the Hyatt Regency Saipan courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Junior tennis players Anika Camacho and Daniel Kang got the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Student Athletes of the Month (for November) awards after their strong showings in the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic.

Kang won two division titles in the annual tournament, while Camacho earned one.

The No. 2 seed Kang first clinched the boys U12 singles crown after pulling off an upset against the top-ranked and division favorite

See JR. on Page 26